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Your complete guide to the 2015 Alberta budget

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# There's more garbage, less recyclable material: City data

## ENVIRONMENT

### Water damage due to 2013 flood skewed the numbers



**Robson Fletcher**  
Metro | Calgary

Calgarians have been filling city landfills with an increasing amount of garbage each year for the past two years while recycling less material per household, according to the city's analysis of its waste streams.

It's a trend that Jasna Hundal, the city's manager of disposal and processing services, is keeping a close eye on but not one that makes her worry too much — not yet at least.

"It kind of appears that we are not doing as well as we thought we would," Hundal said, adding the numbers are a little "deceiving" and not necessarily indicative of Calgarians' typical behaviour.

Last year, the city landfilled 674 kilograms of garbage per capita. That's up from 583 kilograms in 2013 and 556 kilograms in 2012.

Hundal noted there were some extenuating circumstances last year, however, namely the freak September snowstorm that downed tens



The amount of recyclables, per household, collected in city blue carts has dropped for each of the past two years while garbage produced per household has grown. METRO FILE

of thousands of leafy branches all across the city.

While the city collected most of that wood at special drop-off points and recycled it for a variety of purposes, Hundal said a lot of it also ended up in Calgarians' garbage bins, as a monthly analysis of the waste stream saw a big spike in material in September and October.

"We really think it is the result of the snowstorm," she said.

Likewise, a "similar peak" was observed in months following the June 2013 flood, Hundal said, as many Calgarians disposed of water-damaged materials in black carts.

Over the past few years, the amount of recyclable materials collected in Calgary's blue carts has also been dropping.

The level fell to 171 kilograms per household last year, down from 176 kilograms in 2013 and 192 kilograms in 2012.

Hundal said that's in part due to a decline in recyclable material being produced per household, with much less newsprint, in particular, coming out of people's homes.

Plastic packaging has also gotten thinner and lighter, she noted, leading to similar volumes but less weight.

"But even given that, the numbers are still suggesting that we're kind of a wasteful society," said Noel Keough, a professor of environmental

## + WHAT'S NEXT

### New recycling rules for multi-family buildings

Calgary's recycling collection is expected to grow significantly next year, as new rules take effect on Feb. 1, 2016, requiring all condo, townhouse and apartment buildings to provide on-site storage and collection of recyclables.

Currently, many Calgarians living in multi-family buildings don't have regular recycling pickup service and have to take materials to depots on their own, or just throw it in with their regular trash.

design at the University of Calgary who has followed the city's waste trends closely over the past few decades.

Keough, who is also a co-founder of Sustainable Calgary, said domestic waste dropped by about 25 per cent per capita between 1987 and 2011 but the recent uptick still puts the city "a pretty long way" from its targets for landfilled material, which keeps dropping year over year.

"We've got our work cut out for us," Keough said of the city's plan to send 80 per cent less waste to landfills per capita in 2020 than in 2007.

## COURT

### Lawyer seeking to stop election

A prominent Edmonton lawyer has filed for an injunction in an attempt to stop the provincial government from holding what he's calling a snap spring election.

Edmonton lawyer Tom Engel, who is listed as the applicant in the document, said the application was filed at the Edmonton Court of Queen's Bench on Thursday afternoon by law firm Ruttan Bates Barristers and Solicitors.

In the document, which names Premier Jim Prentice as one of the respondents, Engel seeks an order "compelling the Respondent Premier to uphold the promise and legal obligation to hold the next general election" between March 1, 2016, and May 31, 2016.

In an interview with Metro, Engel said the "luring" and the "defection" of a number of Wildrose Party members was a "gutting of the opposition."

In his view, calling an election before the fixed dates would be a move "purely to catch the opposition unprepared and to try and get an even greater majority."

Under the Election Act the Alberta government committed that it would have a fixed election every four years.

The application on the injunction will be heard at the Court of Queen's Bench in Edmonton on March 30.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

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## EARTH HOUR

# Calgary unplugs for outdoor festival

Calgarians are encouraged to spread awareness and reduce energy use by getting involved in Earth Hour this Saturday.

Kyle White, leader of corporate environmental stewardship, said the City of Calgary is hosting a free outdoor event, which will include an LED lantern parade and an Earth Hour photo booth to capture the experience.

"We're offering a fun way for citizens to join together and show Calgary's commitment to conserving energy," White said. "Earth Hour is about taking the time to reflect on the ways we can each take action to reduce our im-

## + LIGHTS OUT!

### Spreading awareness

Come celebrate Earth Hour at Calgary Unplugged, a family-friendly "lights out" event held at Olympic Plaza from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

pact on the environment."

Aside from shutting off the lights at various facilities around Calgary, the city is also looking to convert more than 90,000 community streetlights to LED bulbs over the next four years.

METRO



**We're offering a fun way for citizens to join together and show Calgary's commitment to conserving energy.**

Kyle White

## CRIME

# Shooting suspects sought by police

Calgary police are looking to identify two suspects after a money-transfer shop robbery turned violent on Friday, December 5, 2014.

After reviewing CCTV footage, police said two masked men entered the Dahab Exchange at 5012 - 17 Avenue SE, demanding money. Then, the business owner, a man in his 60s, was shot in his upper body while the assailants escaped on foot.

Police are describing the first suspect as dark-skinned and standing six feet tall with a slim build. He was wearing a red sweatshirt with the hood pulled up over his head and

black material covering his face from the nose down.

The second suspect is also dark-skinned, nearly six feet tall and described by police as having a medium build. He was wearing dark three-quarter length jacket, a dark grey shirt, possibly a dark ski mask, blue faded jeans, silver and dark running shoes and black gloves.

Investigators are asking anyone who may have information about this incident to contact the Calgary Police Service Robbery Unit at 403-428-8787, or Crime Stoppers anonymously.

METRO



These renderings depict what the interior and exterior of the renovated St. Louis Hotel would look like. CONTRIBUTED/CMLC

# St. Louis Hotel plans to keep up its façade

## DEVELOPMENT

## Project will turn site into commercial, office space



Once a favourite watering hole for Ralph Klein, the St. Louis Hotel in Calgary's East Village has seen far better days, but detailed plans revealed Thursday would see the rundown interior renovated and its historic exterior of the building preserved.

The city-owned Calgary Muni-

cipal Land Corporation (CMLC) has applied for a development permit that would see the St. Louis "carefully renovated for its next chapter as a mixed-use commercial development."

It's something the Calgary Heritage Initiative is excited to see.

Bob van Wegen, a board member with the group, said CMLC has been good to heritage buildings in the city, and is happy to see plans move ahead on the St. Louis Hotel.

"The St. Louis Hotel is particularly relevant to Calgarians as it was made famous by former Calgary Mayor and Alberta Premier Ralph Klein and the Friday afternoon imaginary horse races called by George Steven-

**Calgary has lost so much of its heritage ... in some areas we don't have much left.**

Bob van Wegen

marketing Susan Veres said in a statement.

The basement and main floor will be set up to accommodate a food tenant, according to the development plan, while the upper two floors will become corporate office space.

The 101-year-old St. Louis Hotel was initially developed in anticipation of the Grand

Trunk Pacific Railway arriving at nearby Fort Calgary.

In 2008, the city designated the building as a historic resource.

CMLC has also taken ownership of the Cecil Hotel located along 5 Avenue at 3 Street SE.

Though plans aren't underway, the group has committed to inspecting the building and seeing if any of the original structure can be saved.

"We are concerned about the future of the Cecil Hotel," said van Wegen.

"Calgary has lost so much of its heritage that in some areas we don't have much left ... the Cecil is one of only half-dozen hotels that remain from the pre-World War I period in Calgary."



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# Calgary spreads epilepsy awareness

## PURPLE DAY

### Event combats misconceptions of the condition



**Anna Brooks**  
Metro | Calgary

Calgarians donned all shades of purple for what's become

Purple Day, an international day of awareness for epilepsy.

Monique McPherson was diagnosed with epilepsy in 1996, and described one of her biggest struggles as the negative connotations that seem to come with the neurological disorder.

"People always see the negative in a condition rather than how people cope with it," McPherson said. "If we do things like this (Purple Day) and spread the word, I think it will be less

scary for people."

Kathy Fyfe, executive director of the Epilepsy Association of Calgary, said there still seems to be misconceptions about epilepsy simply being convulsions and frothing at the mouth. Fyfe said events like Purple Day are so important because they fight against those stigmas and attempt to educate the public.

"Epilepsy is still very negatively portrayed, especially on TV," Fyfe said. "It can be a hard

thing to promote and create excitement for, but people have really embraced it and it's truly exciting to have a day like this to spread awareness for epilepsy."

Set up in Bankers Hall Thursday, the Epilepsy Association was busy handing out tattoos, posters and talking to people passing by about epilepsy.

Fyfe said this is also the first year Telus Spark and the Calgary Tower have participated.



**Kyle Baigent, left, and Monique McPherson share their struggles with epilepsy for this year's annual Purple Day.**

ANNA BROOKS/METRO

## DEVELOPMENT

### City hall staff call for sale of Eamon's



**Robson Fletcher**  
Metro | Calgary

With no viable proposals coming forward to return the Eamon's Bungalow Camp building to its former site and turn it into a business, city staff are recommending simply selling the structure to anyone who will buy it.

The 1950s-era gas station and garage, considered historic by some and junk by others, is still sitting in city storage.

The former Eamon's sign has been re-erected at the Tuscany LRT station in northwest Calgary, where half a century ago it marked the last outpost for gas and refreshments for people leaving what was then a much

smaller city.

Coun. Ward Sutherland, who has lived in northwest Calgary for nearly half a century himself, said Thursday the sign remains a link to the area's history but he'd just as soon have the city get rid of the building instead of continuing to store it.

"We've wasted enough money and just need to move on," he said. "So, the sooner, the better."

The city had been seeking plans from the private sector to turn the building into a commercial venture at the Tuscany station but no viable proposals were received.

City council will vote Monday on a recommendation to put the building on the market and to cease storing it by Sept. 30 at the latest.



**The famous sign of Eamon's Bungalow Camp has been saved, but the fate of the building remains up in the air.** METRO FILE

## IN BRIEF

### Officer injured by vehicle

A Calgary police officer sustained minor injuries after he was hit by a car driven by a fleeing suspect on Thursday.

According to Det. Steve Adair, the officer was hit in the area of 14 Street and 26 Avenue SW after attempting a traffic stop around 9:30 a.m. Calgary police attended and took both of the car's occupants into custody. The driver, believed to be in his 30s, faces charges of assault with a weapon and may face further charges. METRO

### Man arrested for assault

Calgary police have laid charges of assault and assault with a weapon against a man they say attacked a woman in Prince's Island Park on Wednesday evening.

It appears the suspected attacker and the woman were known to each other. Police said he was located a short time later and arrested.

The woman was taken to hospital with serious, but non-life threatening, injuries. Police said she remains in care. METRO

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# City seeks a Stampede of taxis

## TRANSPORTATION

### Current drivers don't see need with business slow



**Jeremy Nolaïs**  
Metro | Calgary

Despite drivers reporting a rapid slowing of business, city officials will recommend adding dozens more taxis to city streets in time for the busy summer season.

Even still, administrators note in a report that the 64 plates they hope to attach to new cabs this year is a downshift from the original move to release 257. If the plan is approved in a council meeting Monday, the remaining 197 plates would remain in reserve until early 2016.

Drivers, however, are reporting up to a 50 per cent drop in business, and say more vehicles on the roads will only clog up downtown



**Rupinder Gill, president of Calgary United Cabs, says the economic downturn is sapping cash from his wallet and those of other drivers.** METRO FILE

parking stalls.

"Business is dead — the economy is so bad," said Rupinder Gill, president and driver with Calgary United Cabs. "Come downtown at 4 p.m. at Bankers Hall and there's 15 cars parked at a two-car (taxi) stand."



**Business is dead — the economy is so bad.**

Taxi driver Rupinder Gill

Asked about the potential new plates, Gill responded, "They (the city), never listen to us. They can do whatever they like — we don't care."

City figures for late last year didn't find a reduction in overall cab passengers. As well, a target of having cabs

arrive to the customer within 15 minutes 85 per cent of the time is still being missed — in December the mark was 77 per cent.

If the additional plates are approved by council during a meeting Monday, the new vehicles would be on the road for the busy Calgary Stampede.

But Roger Richard, president of Associated Cab, said he wishes the city would green light the full release of plates — the city report recommends sitting on the additional 193 plates until early 2016 at the earliest.

Richard contended, however, that service is still not up to bar during the peak bar-closing hours. He said talk of introducing late-night transit buses to shuttle revelers home doesn't make sense and taxis are the only viable solution.

"That's a waste of money, people are not going to walk to a bus stop at 1 a.m. or 2 a.m. . . . put all of the taxis out and those that offer good service will survive," Richard said.



## TAXI SERVICE

### Councillor says cabbies have 'stepped up'

A city councillor says cabs are more readily available to customers, but he's not necessarily opposed to a measured release of additional plates.

Ward 10 representative Andre Chabot said a challenge was issued to drivers opposed to the mass release of plates to improve service.

"My understanding is they did step up during the Christmas break and were more responsive to customers," he said.

Even then, Chabot said he believes more data is needed before green lighting the remaining plates, some of which city officials are suggesting holding over until 2016.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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Melaena Allen-Trottier is a stay-at-home mom of two special-needs children looking to enrol both kids in school together.

JENNIFER FRIESEN/METRO

# No schools open to my kids: Mom



**Helen Pike**  
Metro | Calgary

## SPECIAL-NEEDS CHILDREN

### Traditional classrooms not an option

A Calgary mother with two special-needs children fears their labels come between them and a proper education.

After a four month-long school search, she's struggling to see where her "outside the mould" children will fit in a traditional school system.

Melaena Allen-Trottier has two kids 13 months apart, and they are inseparable. But when her 4-year-old son was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and she started looking for a school for him and her 5-year-old daughter who also has specific needs, she found numerous obstacles standing in the way.

"He will always be the kid who hangs back, he will be the kid who doesn't join in, he will be the kid that doesn't understand when everybody else has stopped playing the game - he's just a little slower on social cues," Allen-Trottier said. "As soon as people see the ASD on the forms, they don't want [him]."

The Calgary Board of Education told Metro it has extensive services in place for students with special needs, including students who are gifted and those on the autism spectrum. Instead of equipping the schools with aides, the CBE has an evaluation system in place to determine if a student is eligible for specific

programming.

Allen-Trottier said there are certain priorities for her children, namely: small class sizes, a structured classroom and a fenced-in yard, as her daughter is prone to taking off unannounced.

Starting with private schools, she said she heard one thing over and over again: "ASD kids don't tend to get in" and "we don't have resources for spectrum kids."

Furthering her search, she branched out to CBE schools, and opted to meet with principals to explain her family situation. Still, she said the first feedback she heard was that the schools didn't have resources for her kids on site.

For children on the spectrum, the CBE offers a "Communication, Sensory and Social Interaction Program," which its website describes as a program "for students who have been diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and who have moderate to severe cognitive disabilities." The program's student-to-staff ratio is 2:1.

Allen-Trottier said for her son isn't eligible for the program, however, because he's a high functioning ASD child.

On a Facebook group where she goes for support, she said frustrations with finding a good fit for ASD children pop up all too often with only one solution - private school.

"It's one thing if they just want to homeschool, but for many it seems that homeschooling is 'Plan H', after they've tried everything else," she said. "Sad, because it takes these kids - who need above all to learn social interactions - out of the mainstream."

## CREDIT SCORES

# Police warn personization is on the rise

Calgary police are advising the public to keep close watch on their credit scores as the city has seen personation charges skyrocket over the last decade.

The Calgary Police Service says a jump in stranger-on-victim crime is one factor behind the spike.

From 2012 to 2014, Calgary saw an increase of 26 per cent in offences like identity fraud and personation to obtain property, all of which are record-

ed as impersonation in police data.

Staff Sgt. Kristie Verheul with the CPS Economic Crimes Unit said a large number of personation charges are rooted in crimes like Internet fraud and Internet theft, adding the new range of crimes is something Calgary police are working to address.

"There is an ever-changing amount of knowledge that the police are required to have,"

Verheul said.

"It takes a lot longer for us to identify the trend and then to learn about the trend and how to combat it," she said. "There's just a wide-spectrum of how fraud is created now, and that learning curve for police is extremely high as well."

Benjamin Brunner with the Electronic Recycling Association said identity theft and other personation offences are "becoming the crime of the

century," noting impacts of such crimes can have long-lasting impacts on a credit score and corporate reputation.

Verheul noted while the jump over the last three years has been significant, the most drastic change taking place over the last two decades, as in 2009 it was common to see only one personation charge on an annual basis, compared to 469 in 2014.

MORGAN MODJESKI / METRO

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# Province bumping up taxes

## BUDGET

## Opposition Wildrose says decision will hurt Albertans



**Darren Krause**  
Metro | Calgary

Booze, smokes and working for a good wage will all see tax bumps — some of them are already in place as you read this.

Tax increases revealed in Budget 2015 will apply to higher-income earners, with the province creating two new tax brackets for people making more than \$100,000 and more than \$250,000 a year.

Fuel taxes also went up for the first time since 1991 — starting at the stroke of midnight Friday — rising four cents to 13 cents per litre.

Tobacco taxes will also rise by \$5 on a carton of 200 cigarettes to \$45, and people will pay 16 cents more for a bottle of wine and 90 cents more for a 12-pack of beer, also beginning Friday.



**Liquor Depot employee Melissa McCoy says she doubts the alcohol tax will dissuade anyone from enjoying their libations, but questions taxing our way out of a problem that the government created.** JENNIFER FRIESEN / FOR METRO

Calgary Liquor Depot employee Melissa McCoy doesn't anticipate any effect on spirit sales.

"I don't see it affecting sales in Alberta too bad, because people will drink no matter what," she said. "I understand that we're going into a recession and we have to make money, but we've been doing this for years.... We

shouldn't have to keep bumping up the price of everything to make up for what we lost."

The opposition Wildrose party immediately slammed Thursday's budget, claiming it will cost the average family \$2,500 a year.

"Mr. Prentice is making Alberta families pay the price for the PC party's waste and

mismanagement through the largest tax increase and deficit in Alberta history," Wildrose Leader Heather Forsyth said in a statement.

Finance Minister Robin Campbell said with resource revenues dropping to levels not seen since 1998, the budget was an incredibly difficult one to craft.

"It was not a reality we were expecting as recently as last fall," he said.

Criminal justice student Robbie Prindle, 22, was fuelling up Thursday in advance of the price hike.

"It looks like I'm going to have to pick up some extra shifts at work, maybe look into a more

## \$5 billion

Even with all of these new tax measures, the government will have to dip into its rainy day fund to cover a \$5-billion deficit this year. Finance Minister Robin Campbell pledges that will turn around in the years ahead.

## \$100,000

Over the next three years people making more than \$100,000 will see their provincial income tax rate rise to 11.5 per cent from 10 per cent now. People making more than \$250,000 will see their taxes rise to 12 per cent over the next three years, but in the fifth year it will come down to 11.5 per cent.

fuel-efficient vehicle. And I guess I'll be driving less, taking city transit," he said.

"What else can I do, really?"



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# Fears of tuition hikes linger

## EDUCATION

### Students concerned over possible fee increase



**Jeremy Nolais**  
Metro | Calgary

Rumblings of a second round of massive funding cuts to Alberta's post-secondary sector didn't materialize Thursday, but warnings from the province left students fearing they'd be on the hook to pay more in the future.

Overall, the sector will take a 1.4 per cent hit to funding this year and an additional 2.7 per cent will come off the books in 2016-17. The reductions come just two years after a nine per cent turnaround in once-promised funding in 2013's budget led to program terminations, staffing reductions and scaled-back student enrolment.

Originally, some schools had been bracing for a five per cent cut this year alone. But Finance Minister Robin Campbell also gave indications in his budget



**University of Calgary students Sarah Amiry, left, Parsa Samavati and Kean Bexte are among those fearing future cost hikes as the province warns of a move away from heavy reliance on government grants to run institutions.** JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

speech that more funding changes loom for the sector some fear has been doomed by inadequate funding.

"While budget 2015 protects post-secondary institutions from significant reductions to their operating grants, we must make changes to ensure a financially sustainable and accessible system," Campbell said.

Erik Queenan, student association president at Calgary's Mount Royal University, said he believes the province is "setting the stage" to abolish the tuition cap.

"They're cutting us again after we just took a cut two years ago and now it looks we're going to be paying more too," he said.

Metro has previously confirmed that talk of tuition chan-

ges was being mulled by the provincial post-secondary ministry. Currently, tuition increases are tied to the annual rate of inflation.

At the University of Calgary, meanwhile, students like political-science major Sarah Amiry said they fear the fallout of a pledge by the province to eliminate "low-value" programs.

**"It's never easy to take a cut — we're going to have to go back and do the hard work, but we can make the numbers work for us."**

U of C President  
Elizabeth Cannon

"It sounds like the government is lowering the diversity of programs and courses at Alberta institutions and I can wholeheartedly say that's already a problem at the University of Calgary," Amiry said, later adding, "tuition and the cutting of these programs is a huge concern."

U of C President Elizabeth Cannon, however, said she believes the school can work with the budget provided.

"It's manageable," she said. "It's never easy to take a cut — we're going to have to go back and do the hard work, but we can make the numbers work for us."

In a statement, Bow Valley Col-

**\$35M**

The province will repurpose student-aid money from a savings account, allowing for more money to be taken out by learners. Restrictions on who can qualify for loans and other funding will be loosened.

**\$50M**

The province has also recently allocated \$50 million to institutions through its Access to the Future Fund pledged in the 2014-15 budget and will now offer the same amount for 2015-16 to aid with the transition away from heavy reliance among institutions on government grants.

lege President Sharon Carry said this year's budget recognizes the value of post-secondary.

SAIT, meanwhile, said in a statement it will continue manage and control its costs. Mount Royal administrators said they needed to review the budget further before commenting in detail. WITH FILES FROM RYAN TUMILTY/METRO IN EDMONTON

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# Levy worries small businesses

## HEALTH

**Paying more for less health care seems 'grossly unfair'**



**Robson Fletcher**  
Metro | Calgary

Albertans will be asked to dig into their own pockets to pay specifically for health care while health-care spending will simultaneously be cut under the province's new fiscal plan revealed Thursday.

To Calgary resident Lianne Jones, the deal seems "grossly unfair."

"I can't get the services I need now in a timely manner," she said Thursday, after



**A tax is a tax.**

Mike Gron, founder of PayLab Networks



**Mike Gron, founder of Calgary-based PayLab Networks says any increase in taxes, fees, levies — or whatever the government labels them — can hurt startup businesses.**

JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

learning the details of the Alberta government's 2015 budget.

Those details include both a new health care "levy" tacked onto the income tax of people earning \$50,000 a year or more, and a \$159-million reduction in total health

spending from the year before — the first such cut in 20 years.

The levy will increase with income to a maximum of \$1,000 per year while, at the same time, Alberta Health Services expects a 3.3-percent reduction in the grants

it receives from the province.

Unlike the previous incarnation of health premiums in Alberta, however, the new levy will simply be attached to each individual's income tax and employers won't be expected to cover the cost.

That came as little com-

fort to Mike Gron, founder of PayLab Networks, a Calgary-based startup developing mobile-phone-based payment technology.

"For people like us in startup community, new businesses, even a modest tax hike or fee increase can be significant," he said, noting that the levies effectively amount to an income-tax increase, which may force companies to raise salaries to remain competitive with other jurisdictions.

"A tax is a tax," Gron added. "If we want to maintain the 'Alberta Advantage,' adding additional taxes doesn't help."

Adam Browne, who runs Vagus Fitness in Calgary, said the health levies seem to just be "a sign of the economic times" in Alberta.

"Do I like it? Not necessarily, but I definitely understand it," said Browne, whose company employs seven personal trainers and three administration staff.

He was also relieved that employers won't end up on the hook, directly at least,

**\$159 M**

**The reduction in total health spending this year**  
METRO CALGARY

**\$1,000**

**The maximum annual cost of the health levy, maxed out for people earning \$50,000 per year or more**  
METRO CALGARY

for covering the levies, as is the case in other provinces with health premiums.

"For a small business like us, that's huge," Browne said.

As a patient, Jones said she and others she's heard from would expect to get more service — not less — if they're being expected to shell out up to another \$1,000 a year for health care.



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**John Pantazopoulos, a father and head of the Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils, said he fears for classroom amenities and other programming as education funding remains relatively flat.** JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

# Too little cash, too many kids

## EDUCATION

### Most of budget hike eaten up by salary boost, lump payments



**Jeremy Nolais**  
Metro | Calgary

School administrators are preparing to cram more kids into classrooms next year, as education funding will again come in under the rate of student growth.

It's become a common theme for metropolitan school boards, which have seen thousands more students in recent years and relatively marginal increases to their provincial grants.

"This is a very challenging budget," remarked Calgary Board of Education trustee Trina Hurdman, shortly after the details of Alberta Education's allotment were released Thursday. "We have increasing students and

other rising costs. We're subject to the same inflationary pressures as everyone else."

Overall, the province's education budget will rise by \$145 million, but more than half of that will go toward covering a pre-negotiated increase to teacher salary grids as well as one-time lump-sum payment.

But John Pantazopoulos, a father of two and head of the Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils, said there's more to a school than teachers. It's expected as many as 12,000 new students will come to Alberta this year, including more than 4,000 in Calgary alone.

Pantazopoulos said he has concerns about the quality of technology in schools as well as the availability of supplies and textbooks.

"We keep growing upwards here every year and, as the fund-

ing stays flat, you're stretching and stretching more," he said.

Linda Wellman, chair of the Calgary Catholic School District, shared concerns with her public-board peers about funding.

"The classroom is going to look very different next year," she said.

In the Alberta legislature, Education Minister Gordon Dirks conceded school boards will need to be "fiscally prudent" but said decisions on where to spend would be left to individual organ-

izations.

"I have every assurance that those new schools are going to be staffed the way they should be by school boards," Dirks told reporters.

Wellman, however, questioned whether board autonomy was actually taking a hit, as she said it now appears all boards will require ministry approval to spend surplus dollars.

# 33K

The province projects overall teaching force will stay flat at 33,500.

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## 5

## THINGS IN THE BUDGET THAT AFFECT CALGARIANS

Premier Jim Prentice had been hinting for weeks that the 2015 budget would transform the province, and the fiscal outline delivered in the legislature Thursday lived up to its billing, making all sorts of changes to the way Albertans pay for and receive government services. Here are five things in the budget that are particularly relevant to Calgary. **ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO** ROBSON.FLETCHER@METRONEWS.CA



## 1 Cancer centre plans altered

The PC government announced in 2013 that Calgary would be getting a \$1.3-billion dedicated cancer facility to replace the aging Tom Baker Cancer Centre. The new facility has yet to arrive, and Thursday's budget suggests it will be some time, still, before something lesser is built. John Osler of Concerned Citizens for the Calgary Cancer Centre was irate at the slow pace. "To say we cannot afford a world-class facility in Calgary is simply wrong," he said. Health Minister Stephen Mandel, however, said he will reveal more details next week about what he described as an "amazing facility and one that will have a real sense of pride for the citizens of Calgary."

## 2 Southwest ring road completion delayed



Work on the westernmost portion of the remaining leg of Calgary's ring road, from the Trans-Canada Highway to 69 Street SW, will be delayed under the new budget. That work won't start now until 2020 or 2021, according to Alberta Transportation. "This will mean we expect completion of the entire ring road in 2024, subject to funding availability," a spokesperson said. The move will mean about \$1.5 billion less spending on the project over the next five years. Work on the portion of the road that runs through Tsuu T'ina Nation further to the south is still set to begin in 2015-16.



## 3 'Slight' increase for municipal infrastructure

After announcing a boost of \$400 million to funding for municipalities earlier in March, the new budget will cut spending on that file \$373.9 million, resulting in what Municipal Affairs Minister Diana McQueen called "stable" funding overall for 2015. Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi expected grants to the city to "slightly increase this year," noting it may even help speed up some projects. "We will release details soon, but we believe that this allotment will allow us to continue and slightly accelerate major projects such as the Macleod/162nd interchange," Nenshi said.



## 4 Tax breaks for working poor

The budget includes a new refundable tax credit aimed at working families living on low-income. Dubbed the Alberta Working Family Supplement, the credit will be targeted at families earning less than \$41,222 a year. The government expects the supplement to provide about \$85 million in "direct support" to roughly 75,000 families across the province. It won't take effect until July 1, 2016, however.

## 5 Higher fees for pretty much everything

Want to book a campsite in a provincial park? That'll cost you more under Alberta's 2015 budget. User fees for all sorts of provincial government services are set to rise starting July 1 this year. Renewing your driver's licence will cost more. So will getting a birth certificate, a marriage certificate, and even a death certificate. Filing court documents will also cost more as will searching government databases for things like land titles. The increase in fees are expected to generate an additional \$207 million in revenue.



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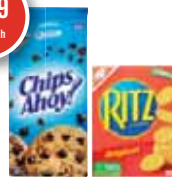
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The MoMo Dance Theatre ensemble is shown during last year's *Fly With Us* performance. This year the group is putting together their first self-produced piece, entitled *I Didn't Wear My Raincoat*. CONTRIBUTED

# MoMo dance group flying on their own

ART

## Ensemble with mixed abilities produces first performance



**Anna Brooks**  
Metro | Calgary

Mixed-ability dancers and artists hope to wow audiences with their first self-produced performance for MoMo Dance Theatre starting March 26.

Artistic director Mark Ikeda said after eight years running an annual spring show, this year they asked the ensemble, a mix of artists with and without disabilities, to create their own work.

"I'm really excited to see some of the work they've come up with," Ikeda said. "One of our choreographers this year is legally blind, so we've teamed up to create something that fulfils what she's hoping to show audiences."

Ikeda said the eclectic mix of ensemble members allows

“  
**One of our choreographers ... is legally blind**

Artistic director Mark Ikeda

for the creation of a performance very different from what audiences might expect watching a traditional theatre or dance production.

"It's a really wonderful feeling to walk into a room full of people so willing to share

with one another — it doesn't matter where anyone comes from or what disability they might have," Ikeda said.

"Audiences are usually blown away, and it's affirming to know what we're doing is having an impact on people."

Dubbed *I Didn't Wear My Raincoat*, Ikeda said the performance is about how external things like the weather can have an internal effect on our lives.

Ikeda said it's also an important opportunity for the cast to showcase what they have learned over the year.

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## IN BRIEF

### Three shootings involving police being probed

The head of a unit that investigates police in Alberta is trying to reassure people following three officer-involved shootings in the past 10 days. Susan Hughson, executive director of the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, says her staff is investigating 25 cases so far this year compared to 53 in 2014. Investigators are reviewing two shootings by Calgary police and one by RCMP in Wetaskiwin. The family of a Calgary man who died in one of the shootings is raising questions about his death, and supporters plan to hold a rally on April 4.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



[illegible]



# No 'kiddie gloves' in battle rap

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Event pulls no punches in Calgary this Saturday

It's a world where nothing's too offensive, a crowd of larynxes croon out a low and simultaneous "Ohhhhh."

Battle rap is like spoken-word poetry on acid.

There are few — no, scratch that — there are no rules about what's off limits.

"Know that no one's going to be wearing kiddie gloves," said Jacob "Knamelis" Karsemeijer. "It's a sub-culture that's defined by its volatility and being offensive. I would just say maybe don't bring your grandma, unless your grandma is really f—ing cool."

Knamelis hails from Toronto but this week he'll take his rapid-fire lines west to Calgary for Quarantine 2, an event hosted by King of the Dot Entertainment. The event's being billed as the city's largest and one of the most diverse rap battle

lineups on record.

Some of North America's biggest names, like Chedda Cheese, Ape Yola and Ill Nye, will be throwing punches in the spotlight. Local rappers are chomping at the bit to take part and it's believed the culture will only grow with each late-night freestyle.

"A lot more kids are into the scene than before," said local rapper Matthew "New'L" Newell. "People who were watching online, who weren't able to go to the events, are now old enough. I see a lot more support and a lot more competition for sure. There's a lot more people battling now.... They've made our scene look really good not only online but in other cities like Vancouver and Toronto."

But Calgary's imprint on battle rap is extending beyond Canada's borders.

Kimani "Quest Mcodey" Graham is billed as one of Detroit's finest, and he'll be taking on New'L for the blowout. His initial inspiration comes from time spent as an extra on set of the battle-rap-film-turned-blockbuster — 2002's 8 Mile.

"It was like, I'm just as good as these guys," said Mcodey, just days before heading to Calgary to battle. "I started getting into tournaments (and) within nine months I had a TV show."

The lines drop with enough vulgarity to make your rebellious 17-year-old cousin blush, but the opportunities battle rap affords to some like Mcodey can be life-changing.

"It saved my life," he said. "Some of the toughest neighbourhoods I came up in."

He was in New York for a battle when someone opened fire on his home back in Detroit — one of Mcodey's friends was shot in the melee.

Mcodey makes it a mission now to give back and help kids. It's not long into an interview before he starts asking about youth support groups in Calgary and whether he can lend a hand during his short time in town.

"It's not about the money now," he said. "They say if you're doing something you're happy doing, you'll never work. So, as long as I can do it I'm going to do it." JEREMY NOLAIS AND JENNIFER FRIESEN/METRO



**Jacob Karsemeijer, stage name Knamelis, is one of the participants in Quarantine 2, billed as Calgary's largest and one of the most diverse rap battle lineups ever.** CONTRIBUTED

## + BIG SHOW

King of the Dot's Quarantine 2 will take place Saturday at The Republik, located at 219—17th Avenue SW. Battles start at 8 p.m. sharp. Tickets are \$20 pre-sale or \$30 at the door.

## + LINEUP

— Chedda Cheese (Calgary) vs. Big Kannon (Chicago)  
— DDSS (Vancouver) vs. Knamelis (Toronto)  
— Pigsty (Scotland) vs. Soul (Vancouver)  
— Quest Mcodey (Detroit) vs. New'L (Calgary)  
— J-Pro (California) vs. Ape Yola (Vancouver)  
— Ill Nye (Calgary) vs. Sun Tzu (Seattle)  
— Dirty Harry (Calgary) vs. Rezza Reckt (Edmonton)  
— Philip Solo (Calgary) vs. ed-Words (Edmonton)

To watch a web trailer for Quarantine 2, head to [metronews.ca/calgary](http://metronews.ca/calgary)

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# More cycle paths coming to MacEwan

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### University officials looking to add to bike infrastructure



**Stephanie Dubois**  
Metro | Edmonton

MacEwan University is responding to calls for better bike infrastructure from students and advocacy groups, pledging to map cycle paths and designate some sidewalks as bike friendly.

The news comes a day after Metro published a story about a letter sent on March 10 by the Edmonton Bike Coalition to the university's administration.

On Thursday, Metro obtained MacEwan president David W. Atkinson's response to Conrad Nobert, with the Edmonton Bike Coalition.

"I am pleased to advise that MacEwan's facilities department is currently in the process of mapping our cycling



MacEwan University has sent a letter to Conrad Nobert, pictured, who is a member of the Edmonton Bike Coalition, saying the school is working on getting bike infrastructure at its downtown campus. TOPHER SEGUIN/FOR METRO

paths and their connection to the city's bicycle network plan," Atkinson said in the letter.

Atkinson added that the school's facilities department

is looking into "designating some of our sidewalks and internal roadways as a shared-use path for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists."

One option includes turn-

ing double sidewalks along 104 Avenue into a path for "exclusive cycle use," Atkinson wrote in the letter.

Nobert said he's supportive of the ideas.

"I think MacEwan is taking a progressive approach to healthy ways for people to get to their campus," he said. "I'm encouraged by the idea in making connections to other

## + UPDATE

### In two months' time

The Edmonton Bike Coalition plans to follow up with the university in about 60 days to get an update on the bike-path planning.

city cycle infrastructure."

Connecting the Rail Town path to the campus is one plan that Nobert anticipates could help expand the city's bike network.

City officials are meeting with MacEwan University on Monday for exactly that reason, as the school figures out how its bike plans will fit into the city's strategies.

"They've reached out for support and guidance on developing a plan for that," said Tyler Golly, general supervisor with transportation planning at the city.

"I think some of their desires is to have that access (to other bike networks) but also ... so you can get through and to the campus and that it's not a barrier."

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Corey Baskin gives Metro a sneak peek of his garage, which is now converted from a storage space for tools and trinkets, into a gallery for emerging artists. JENNIFER FRIESE/METRO

# Nurturing art while Baskin in glory of his garage gallery

COREY BASKIN

**Man clears out the tools and gives budding artists a chance**



**Helen Pike**  
Metro | Calgary

There's a surprise in store when you walk into Corey Baskin's garage. It's not a neatly organized set of tools, or two lovingly restored vintage cars. Instead, it's a full-fledged art gallery.

He calls it the garage gallery and it's making a debut on Saturday in his McKenzie Towne spot. The space itself is warm and inviting with decorative curtains hung

from walls and a dressing room screen, all adorned with local unknown artist's work. He's hoping it opens up a place for emerging artists to display their work.

One of his youngest participants will be his 12-year-old nephew, who just wants to sell art like his uncle does.

"I think that other than going to a store or a gallery that might not accept upcoming new artists, and or charge a big commission fee, I thought this might be a good way to help people who are just starting out," Baskin said.

"Kind of a more neighbourly, openly friendly type of atmosphere."

Baskin was in a terrible head-on car crash about a year ago, leaving him to recover from a concussion and several other injuries. He couldn't work, watch tele-

## + DETAILS

### When and where

The gallery's first exhibit will be held Saturday at 11 a.m., in Baskin's garage, located at 202 Elgin Rise SE.

vision, or concentrate on anything other than his art — something he picked up again — after the injury.

"I haven't been able to work since, so I started to do my art as therapy and it just keeps progressing," Baskin said.

"I've always wanted to open some sort of shop helping out local artists and craftspeople, and the idea just came to me to change my garage into a nice looking gallery."

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# School on Seton site not a priority

## EDUCATION

**Parents say they will fight for classrooms closer to home**



**Jeremy Nolais**  
Metro | Calgary

The city's Catholic school officials are prioritizing more than 20 projects ahead of a high school on a deep-southeast plot of land that was already abandoned for a previous facility due to site readiness issues.

The new 2016-19 capital plan from the Calgary Catholic District is ratcheting up frustrations among parents in neighbourhoods like Auburn Bay, Cranston and Mahogany, who claim they've been largely ignored when it comes to infrastructure needs over the years.

In mid-January, the Catholic school district announced it would be moving the location of an already-funded high school across the Bow River to



**Sue Zucchelli had hoped to send her twin daughters Lily, left, and Tulia as well as one of her other five children to a new high school in Seton.** METRO FILE

the Legacy neighbourhood as the originally planned site in Seton/Rangeview wasn't ready.

The building at Legacy is expected to open in 2017, but there have been no guarantees that students living close to the original site will be able to

attend.

The Catholic district did pledge to build a future school on the Seton site, but a new capital plan, which acts as an infrastructure funding wish list for the province, ranks that project No. 22.

All told, the projects ranked ahead of the high school amount to in excess of \$365 million, and with the province belt-tightening as it works to close a \$7-billion gap in its budget, there's little hope that funding for the Seton school



**They're not going to build two high schools in the south back-to-back and we told them this.**

Lori O'Reilly, mother in Mahogany

will come any time soon.

"Just because it's on a three-year capital plan doesn't mean squat ... we knew this was going to happen," said Lori O'Reilly, a mother in Mahogany. "They're not going to build two high schools in the south back-to-back and we told them this. They tried to pacify everybody."

But Linda Wellman, Catholic trustee chair, said the need for new schools is being felt across the city.

She reiterated that the move to Legacy was necessitated by the need to add a third high school in the deep-south as quickly as possible.

Wellman said the two current facilities for high school

## + SCHOOLS

**Calgary Catholic district's top school needs**

1. Sherwood Elementary/Junior High (will include career and technology offerings and 16 modulars): \$22.8 million
  2. St. Francis School modernization: \$29 million
  3. Mahogany Elementary school (will include 16 modulars): \$18.1 million
- All three schools have been approved for design work, but await construction dollars.

students in the area, Bishop O'Byrne and Bishop Grandin, are essentially full.

"It's critical that we open this school as soon as we can so we can accommodate students and provide them with a more optimal learning environment," she said.



**To see the 2016-19 Calgary Catholic School District capital plan, visit [metronews.ca/calgary](http://metronews.ca/calgary)**

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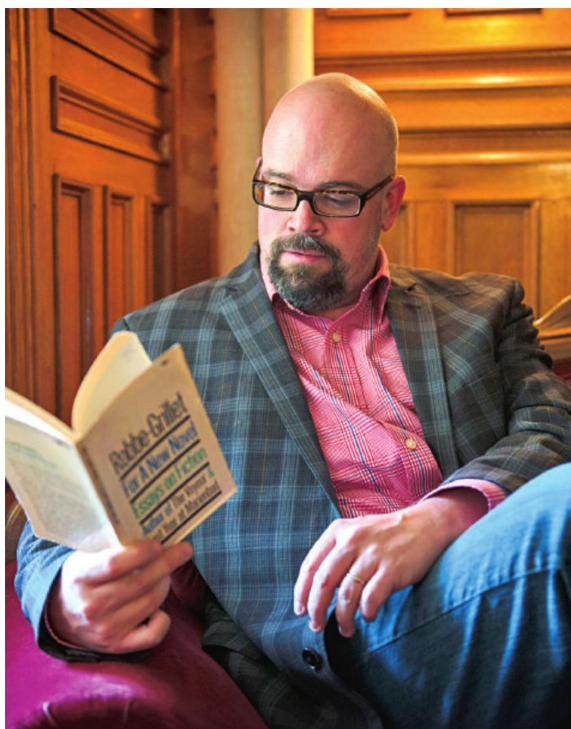
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# Poetry takes up residence in Loughheed

# Calgary's poet laureate is first artist to get keys to great house

Isabella Lougheed in 1891, but is now a national and provincial historic site and museum.

Kirsten Evenden, executive director of the Loughheed House, approached Beaulieu with the idea months ago, saying that the house had been a cultural epicentre ever since the Loughheeds lived there. Travelling musicians and performers would gather inside the home at a time when “there weren’t a lot of public places to gather,” she said.

"We wanted to bring back the idea of re-engaging with historic spaces, because of course they're kept for the stories they tell, but they're also places where new things can happen," Evenden continued. "We want to insert the new into the old to make some new connections."

Beaulieu said he hopes the residency kicks off the chance for future artists to work in the space, and said he's "thrilled" to be the first one with the opportunity.

For years Derek Beaulieu lived in Calgary's Beltline — passing the historical Lougheed House every now and then — but he never stepped foot inside the building until last year.

"I remember walking in there for the first time and my jaw just dropped," he said. "It was like moving back in time, it was an insight into a piece of Calgary's history."

Beaulieu, now Calgary's poet laureate, will soon set up shop in the building as the Lougheed House's first artist in residence. From May 1 to June 30, he'll spend his days in Senator Lougheed's old office working on a series of poems and visual poetry.

The gargantuan sandstone house was built for James and

## SOUTHERN ALBERTA RESERVE

## People being trained to use fentanyl antidote

A southern Alberta reserve where two people died from what police believe was a potent amount of fentanyl is training people on the use of an antidote.

Health officials from the Blood Tribe say the special drug kit could help save someone's life in the event of an overdose.

The illegal drug is sometimes sold to unsuspecting buyers as OxyContin or heroin and

has been linked to more than 100 deaths in Alberta last year.

Blood Tribe doctor Esther Tailfeathers says the drug Naloxone can counter the effects of opioids such as fentanyl.

The band declared a state of emergency earlier this month over the use of pills containing fentanyl.

Three people from the reserve have been charged in the drug overdose deaths of a man and a woman who were

**The drug Naloxone  
can counter the  
effects of opioids  
such as fentanyl**

both in their 40s.

Blood Tribe police Chief Lee Boyd has said authorities on the reserve will do everything in their power to stop

trafficking of the illicit drug.

Fentanyl can be many times more powerful and toxic than morphine and can be mixed into other street drugs.

Fentanyl made by pharmaceutical companies is used to treat severe pain or to manage pain after surgery.

Illegally made fentanyl is made in clandestine drug labs and sold in pills or powder.

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# Most free MP trips to Taiwan, Israel

## POLITICS

### Commissioner releases MP travel arranged by outside orgs

Sixty MPs declared 86 free trips — courtesy of advocacy organizations, business groups and foreign embassies — worth a

total of \$442,524 last year, according to a summary of sponsored travel reports released Thursday by Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner Mary Dawson.

The most popular destinations for travel junkets in 2014 were Taiwan, which received 17 visits, and Israel, which was frequented 12 times.

MPs are required to disclose travel worth more than \$500

— and paid for by someone other than the federal government, political parties, inter-parliamentary associations or the MPs themselves — to the commissioner within 60 days.

NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair travelled to Las Vegas with his executive assistant George Smith to speak at the convention for the United Steelworkers International, from Aug. 11 to 12, 2014. The union covered

\$2,915 in travel costs.

Liberal MP Irwin Cotler travelled to Israel to address a counterterrorism conference in Herzliya from Sept. 4 to 12, 2014. The university IDC Herzliya covered \$5,219 in travel costs.

Conservative MP Russ Hiebert travelled to Taipei, Taiwan with his wife, Andrea Heibert, for “economic and cultural education,” from April 12 to 26,

2014. The Chinese International Economic Co-operative Association covered \$10,867, including \$125 worth of gifts.

Liberal MP Stéphane Dion travelled to Spain, visiting Barcelona, Madrid and Tarragona, to participate on multiple panels at a conference from Mar. 8 to 13, 2014. La Fundación Canada and Federalistes d'Esquerres covered \$2,947 in travel costs. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES



**NDP leader Thomas Mulcair was among 60 MPs who took trips on others' dimes.**

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## QUEBEC REGISTRY

### Supreme Court to rule on gun data

The Harper government may be headed for another political collision with the Supreme Court of Canada, which is set to rule Friday on the fate of Quebec's gun registry data.

The Conservatives abolished the registry for long guns in February 2011, fulfilling a five-year-old campaign promise after forming a majority government.

They also ordered that all data collected by the provinces be destroyed — a decision the Quebec government went to court to overturn.

A Quebec judge originally granted the province's request to preserve the data, calling it a constitutional infringement to destroy it.

But that decision was overturned by the Quebec Court of Appeal, which said there was no constitutional violation in the federal order to destroy the data.

The issue is politically charged because the Conservatives see mainly rural long-gun owners as a core constituency.

Jeremy Laurin, a spokesman for Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney, defended the government's decision to seek to have the gun registry data destroyed.

"It would be dangerous for our law enforcement to rely on outdated and obsolete in-

formation to conduct their operations," Laurin said in a statement.

He reiterated the government's oft-repeated position that the registry was wasteful and that the government "will always stand up for law-abiding hunters, farmers and sport shooters."

So, the Supreme Court will once again find itself ruling on a key area of the government's agenda.

The court has ruled against Conservative policy in a number of key areas, including rejecting the appointment of Quebec judge Marc Nadon to its ranks, rejecting Parliament's right to reform the Senate on its own and upholding the right of Vancouver's controversial Insite safe-injection facility to stay open when the government wanted to close it.

Friday's ruling deals with a narrow legal issue: the Quebec government isn't taking issue with Ottawa's jurisdiction to get rid of the long gun registry, only the provision to destroy the data.

Quebec is arguing that the registry was a joint effort between the provinces and the federal government, giving it the right to keep the data.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## IN BRIEF

### Eight years' jail for illegal butt injections

A woman who injected industrial silicone oil into customers' buttocks had no regard for their safety and preyed on her victims for financial gain, a Toronto judge found Thursday as she sentenced Marilyn Reid to eight years in prison.

The sentence means that, with credit for time already spent in custody, the 50-year-old Newmarket, Ont., woman has five years and three months left to serve.

"Ms. Reid has wounded, maimed, disfigured and endangered the lives of the victims," said Superior Court Justice Jane Kelly. "The offences appear to have been motivated by greed."

Reid cradled her head in her hands and looked down at the floor of the prisoner's box as her sentence was delivered.

She had pleaded guilty to eight counts of aggravated assault in January. A ninth victim came forward after her legal case was underway. THE CANADIAN PRESS





CBC News is laying off 144 people across the country, shrinking English-language local services in a bid to shave \$15 million from its operating costs. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# More cuts announced by the CBC

FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY

**Broadcaster also aiming to shorten local newscasts to 30 or 60 minutes**

CBC is slashing 244 jobs from local news services across the country as it plans to shift some of its limited resources to its digital operations.

The cuts include 144 positions from English-language services and 100 jobs on the French side, which include 20 vacant positions and retirements.

Meanwhile, the public broadcaster is adding 80 new digital jobs as it works towards offering a continuous news stream for mobile users.

Jennifer McGuire, Editor-in-Chief of CBC News, announced the English layoffs in a note to staff, which stressed that no stations would close and all local radio programming would be maintained.

The job losses include 37 positions in Alberta, 30 in Ontario and 25 in British Columbia.

McGuire admitted that "local services will be smaller overall" but said the relative size of each region would remain the same.

"It hits just about everything, it hits technical, it hits editorial, it hits management and administration," McGuire said in an interview.

"We're also looking at efficiencies where we find them and we're looking at how we work differently."

Most of the cuts are related to previously announced plans to shorten local supper-hour newscasts to 30 or 60 minutes. McGuire said the shortened newscasts will be introduced in October, as will a plan to broadcast Radio One morning shows on TV.

Shows in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax, Charlottetown, St. John's, N.L., and the North will be trimmed to 60 minutes, while programs in Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Windsor, Montreal and Fredericton will be chopped to 30 minutes.

The cuts are part of a five-year strategy announced last June by CEO Hubert Lacroix in a bid to increase digital offerings by 2020.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WINNIPEG

## Gallery hopes for \$60M to house Inuit art

Winnipeg's art gallery is trying to carve out space to house what's billed as the world's largest public collection of Inuit art — only a fraction of which is ever on display.

The gallery has plans to build a \$60-million building for 13,000 pieces that include carvings, prints and drawings. The centre would include a climate-controlled "visible vault" of the collection, which the gallery says would be the first of

its kind in North America and would offer education programs about the North.

Gallery director Stephen Borys said the 3,700-square-metre centre would be unique and would help bring the Arctic to the rest of Canada, considered the "deep south" to those in the North. The centre would raise the profile of "an art-making culture that, per capita, is unparalleled in the world," Borys said.

"There are communities where 20 to 30 per cent of the community are art makers," he said Thursday.

"The art makers, who are behind these incredible objects, will have a platform, a voice and a way to communicate more of the land that they come from — the land that very, very few Canadians ever get the chance to visit."

The gallery has a long way to go before shovels are in the

ground. Although its funding request was recently turned down by the city, TD Bank announced a \$500,000 donation Thursday to help fund an artist-in-residence and a printmaking studio.

It could be a few years before the centre becomes a reality, Borys said.

"It's something that will take a lot of money, a lot of support," he said. "There will be a building. We know it's going to happen." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# MPs told ISIL mission will need more time: Sources

## IRAQ AND SYRIA

### Military official said only 650 Kurds have been trained

The training of Kurdish peshmerga fighters has been a slow undertaking that could mean Canada's mission in Iraq and Syria will take more than a year, The Canadian Press has learned.

That was the message officials from the Canadian Forces and Foreign Affairs delivered behind closed doors Wednesday to the main critics of the New Democrats and the Liberals.

The briefing included an officer who currently oversees the strategic joint staff, the military's nerve centre. Neither Defence Minister Jason Kenney nor Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson were present.

Maj.-Gen. Mike Hood, who will soon become the commander of the air force, told the briefing that only 650 peshmerga fighters have been trained since a contingent of 69 elite Canadian commandos deployed to northern Iraq last September, according to multiple sources with knowledge of what was said in the room.

The MPs were told that "this was not a one-year undertaking by any stretch of the imagination, that it will take multiple years," said one source, who



**Defence Minister Jason Kenney speaks with the media Wednesday in the foyer of the House of Commons. The training of Kurdish fighters has been slow, which could mean Canada's mission in Iraq may take more than a year, according to sources.** ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

insisted on anonymity.

Hood tried to reassure the politicians that CF-18 jet fighters would be able to conduct precision strikes on moving and static targets inside Syria — one objective of a controversial motion by the Harper government.

Sources said Hood told the briefing that the Canadians would get accurate strike infor-

mation from intelligence and surveillance platforms, but did not say how the intelligence would be gathered — or by whom.

Hood ruled out sending special forces personnel into Syria to "paint" airstrike targets — identifying and steering laser-guided munitions — as they have done for Kurdish forces in northern Iraq. He also said

there were no plans to notify the Syrian government in advance of any air operations.

The U.S. has reportedly been using a third-party country to notify the Syrians know about its raids, the legality of which has been debated since the first sorties began in earnest last September.

Hood also presented a more strategic picture, repeating the

## + CONCERNS

### Concerns

The Canadian government continues to have concerns about the continuing Shiite dominance in Iraq and the slow pace of making its government and military more inclusive of other groups, the Ottawa briefing was told.

U.S.-led coalition's claim that the advance the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant had been largely checked, and the international community was now in the phase of training local forces — Iraqi and moderate Syrian rebels — to retake territory.

Nobody has a sense of how the third phase will come together, Hood told the room.

Hood also told the briefing that the ongoing battle to retake the Sunni-dominated Iraqi city of Tikrit will be a "bellwether" in terms of assessing the ability of Iraqi security forces to take on ISIL in the future.

The assault, which began a few weeks ago, has stalled amid high casualties.

It is largely being organized and backed by an Iranian special forces Shiite militia. But at Iraq's request, the United States launched air strikes Wednesday on Tikrit. The Shiite-dominated government in Baghdad requested the air power to break the deadlock. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## ANTI-TERROR BILL

### Activists need not worry: Ex-spy

Many demonstrators are flattering themselves when they publicly fret about coming under the scrutiny of security services, says a former spymaster.

Ray Boisvert said Thursday the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) had the resources to monitor only those threats "in the red, high-risk, high-probability zone" when he served as the agency's assistant director of intelligence earlier this decade.

"That meant that we had no time to even consider looking at any sort of lesser evils that were emerging out there," Boisvert told the House of Commons public-safety committee, which is studying a sweeping new security bill.

Boisvert said he takes "great offence" to commonly voiced concerns that the legislation would effectively place legitimate protest under the CSIS lens, adding that groups and individuals "should not flatter yourself to that degree."

Boisvert and David Harris, another retired CSIS officer, backed a legislative proposal to allow the spy agency to actively derail terror plots — not just gather information about them.

Under the bill, CSIS could take clandestine measures that violate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms as long as a judge approves the actions. However, the disruption provisions would conscript judges into the "dirty business" of spying, said Ziyaad Mia of the Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Royal Canadian Air Force CF-18 Hornets leave after refueling on Oct. 30, 2014 over Iraq. HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Watchdog warns military costs too high

### BUDGET

### Harper government spends \$21.5B on defence

The Harper government has built a military that it cannot afford and will be forced to make tough choices in the future, if it sticks with the current funding envelope, the country's budget watchdog said Thursday.

The new assessment by the parliamentary budget office came as debate kicked off in the House of Commons about an expanded and extended war against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, a conflict that opposition MPs were warned this week will last more than a year.

Jean-Denis Frechette, the parliamentary budget officer, says the federal government will need to either pour more money into its defence budget, scale back its ambitions, or do a mixture of

both in order to put Canada's military on a sustainable footing.

The Harper government currently spends \$21.5 billion on defence — or 1.1 per cent of the gross domestic product.

In order to sustain the existing number of troops, bases, tanks, planes and ships, the budget office says the Conservatives will have to spend about 1.6 per cent of GDP, which would be an increase of at least \$3 billion annually.

Defence Minister Jason Kenney did not respond directly to the contents of the report, but told the Commons on Thursday that under the Conservatives the overall defence budget has increased by 27 per cent. However, a defence research report noted last year that the corrosive effect of inflation whittles that down to just seven per cent.

Also, he said the government would top up the defence budget on an incremental basis for costs incurred because of the war.

The Conservatives rode to power in 2006 with a promise to dramatically increase the size of the military and to provide it with stable funding after years of lean Liberal budgets.

The defence budget did grow during the Afghan war, but starting in 2011 the Conservatives attacked the federal deficit, reducing the military's appropriation by \$2.5 billion on an annual basis compared to what it was projected to be. The effect of most of those cuts kicked in last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Canada needs to do more for Syrians: opposition

The wars in Syria and Iraq are pushing asylum claims to their highest global levels in 22 years, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said Thursday.

And Canada should be doing more for those seeking to flee the ongoing conflicts, the opposition parties said as debate began on the expansion of Canada's military involvement in those wars.

Syrians made 150,000 applications for refugee status to 44 countries in 2014, making them the largest group that year, and Iraqis accounted for 68,700, the

UNHCR said in its global trends report. The situation mirrors that facing the globe after the Balkan wars of the 1990s, when hundreds of thousands of people sought refuge, said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres.

"Our response has to be just as generous now as it was then — providing access to asylum, resettlement opportunities and other forms of protection for the people fleeing these terrible conflicts," Guterres said in a statement.

### + RESETTLING

Work is now underway on a pledge made in January to resettle 10,000 more over the next three years, but the NDP's Megan Leslie questioned how feasible this is.

Canada is low on the list of destinations for asylum-seekers — most are seeking shelter in neighbouring countries like Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon where

refugee camps are in some cases larger than major cities.

But Canada is being asked to take in thousands of refugees from those camps as part of a global appeal by the UN.

Only this month has the Conservative government finally fulfilled a 2013 promise to resettle 1,300 Syrian refugees by the end of last year — 1,306 are now in the country, according to information tabled in the House of Commons this week in response to a question by the New Democrats.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Investigators carry boxes from the apartment of Germanwings airliner jet co-pilot Andreas Lubitz, in Duesseldorf, Germany, Thursday. MARTIN MEISSNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Co-pilot crashed plane on purpose

## FLIGHT 9525

### Some airlines get stricter on cockpit rules

Passengers with moments to live screamed in terror and the pilot frantically pounded on the locked cockpit door as a 27-year-old German co-pilot deliberately and wordlessly smashed an Airbus carrying 150 people into an Alpine mountainside.

The account Thursday of the final moments of Germanwings Flight 9525 prompted some airlines to immediately impose stricter cockpit rules — and raised haunting questions about the motive of the co-pilot, whose breathing never wavered as he destroyed the plane and the lives of those aboard.

"We have no idea of the reason," Marseille Prosecutor Brice Robin said, revealing the chilling conclusions investigators

reached after reconstructing the final minutes of the flight from the plane's black box voice recorder. Co-pilot Andreas Lubitz's intention was "to destroy this plane."

French, German and U.S. officials said there was no indication of terrorism. The prosecutor did not elaborate on why investigators do not suspect a political motive; instead they're focusing on the co-pilot's "personal, family and professional environment" to try to determine why he did it.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose nation lost 75 people on the flight, said the conclusions brought the tragedy to a "new, simply incomprehensible dimension." Devastated families of victims visited the crash scene Thursday, looking across a windy mountain meadow toward where their loved ones died.

The Airbus A320 was flying from Barcelona to Duesseldorf on Tuesday when it lost radio contact with air traffic con-

trollers and began plunging from its cruising altitude of 38,000 feet, before slamming into the mountainside eight minutes later.

The prosecutor laid out in horrifying detail the final sounds heard in the cockpit extracted from the mangled voice recorder.

Lubitz, courteous in the first part of the trip, became "curt" when the captain began the mid-flight briefing on the planned landing, Robin said.

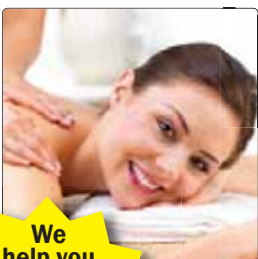
The pilot, who has not been identified, left the cockpit for an apparent bathroom break, and Lubitz took control of the jet.

He suddenly started a manual descent, and the pilot started knocking on the door.

There was no response. "It was absolute silence in the cockpit," the prosecutor said — except for the steady breathing he said indicated Lubitz was not panicked, and acted in a calm, deliberate manner.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Fire, building collapse in Manhattan, at least 12 hurt

## EXPLOSION

### Evidence suggests gas explosion: N.Y.C. mayor

An apparent gas explosion levelled an apartment building, largely destroyed another and launched rubble and shards of glass across streets in the heart of Manhattan's trendy East Village on Thursday, injuring at least a dozen people. Smoke could be seen and smelled for miles.

Restaurant diners ran out of their shoes and bystanders helped one another to escape the mid-afternoon blast, which damaged four buildings as flames shot into the air, witnesses said. Passersby were hit by debris and flying glass, and bloodied victims were aided as they sat on sidewalks and lay on the ground.

"It was terrifying — absolutely terrifying," said Bruce Finley, a visitor from San Antonio, Texas, who had just taken a photo of his food at a restaurant known for its french fries when he felt the explosion next door.

"It just happened out of the blue ... We were shaking even an hour, hour and a half later."



**It was terrifying — absolutely terrifying.... We were shaking even an hour, hour and a half later**

Bruce Finley, visitor from San Antonio, Texas

Mayor Bill de Blasio said preliminary evidence suggested a gas explosion amid plumbing and gas work inside the building that collapsed was to blame.

A plumber was doing work connected to a gas service upgrade, and inspectors from utility company Con Edison

had been there to check on a planned meter installation about an hour before the fire, company president Craig Ivey said.

But the work failed the inspection, partly because a space for the new meters wasn't big enough, and the inspectors said gas couldn't be introduced to that part

of the building, Con Ed said.

The state Department of Public Service was monitoring Con Ed's response.

The fire happened a little over a year after a gas explosion in a building in East Harlem killed eight people and injured about 50.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A building burns after an explosion on Second Avenue on Thursday in New York City. ANDREW BURTON/GETTY IMAGES

## IN BRIEF

### Indiana to allow needle-exchange program

Indiana's governor authorized a short-term needle-exchange program and other steps Thursday to help contain the spread of HIV in a county tied to 79 new infections since January, all of them linked to intravenous drug use. Gov. Mike Pence issued an executive order declaring a public health emergency in the Midwestern state's Scott County.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Iraqi troops start final phase of offensive to recapture Tikrit

Iraqi troops started the final phase of an offensive to recapture Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit on Thursday, a military official said, just hours after the United States launched airstrikes on the Islamic State-held city.

The push, however, is going ahead without the country's Iran-backed Shiite militias, which had been instrumental to the operation so far and which backed out in protest over the U.S. action.

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# Saudis, allies plan Yemen invasion

## MIDDLE EAST

### Houthi leader defiant under air strikes

The turmoil in Yemen grew into a regional conflict Thursday, with Saudi Arabia and its allies bombing Shiite rebels allied with Iran, while Egyptian officials said a ground assault will follow the airstrikes.

Iran denounced the Saudi-led air campaign, saying it "considers this action a dangerous step." Oil prices jumped in New York and London after the offensive.

The military action turned impoverished and chaotic Yemen into a new front in the rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Starting before dawn, Saudi warplanes pounded an air base, military bases and anti-aircraft positions in the capital of Sanaa and flattened a number of homes near the airport, killing at least 18 civilians, including six children. Another round followed in the evening, again rocking the city.



**Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, hold up their weapons Thursday to protest against Saudi-led air strikes, as they chant slogans during a rally in Sanaa, Yemen.** HANI MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rebel leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi angrily accused the United States, Saudi Arabia and Israel of launching a "criminal, unjust, brutal and sinful" campaign aimed at invading and occupying Yemen.

"Yemenis won't accept such

humiliation," he said in a televised speech Thursday night, calling the Saudis "stupid" and "evil."

The Houthis, who have taken over much of the country, mobilized thousands of supporters to protest the airstrikes,

with one speaker lashing out at the Saudi-led coalition and warning that Yemen "will be the tomb" of the aggressors.

White House spokesman Eric Schultz told reporters on Air Force One en route to Alabama that President Barack

Obama had authorized logistical and intelligence support for the strikes, but that the U.S. is not joining with direct military action.

In the air assault codenamed "Operation Decisive Storm," Saudi Arabia deployed some 100

fighter jets, 150,000 soldiers and other navy units, Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya TV reported.

Also involved were aircraft from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan and Egypt, though it was not clear which carried out actual strikes.

Once the airstrikes have weakened the rebels and their allies in the military forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a ground invasion of Yemen is planned by Egyptian, Saudi and other forces.

The assault will come from Saudi Arabia and by landings on Yemen's coasts along the Red and Arabian seas, according to three Egyptian military and security officials.

Three to five Egyptian troop carriers are stationed offshore, they said, although the number of troops was not specified, and the timing of the operation was not given.

The aim is not to occupy Yemen but to weaken the Houthis and their allies until they enter negotiations for power-sharing, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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# U.S. may permit Iran isotope enrichment

## DIPLOMACY

### Centrifuges could run again, with inspections

The United States is considering letting Tehran run hundreds of centrifuges at a once-secret, fortified underground bunker in exchange for limits on centrifuge work and research and development at other sites, officials have told The Associated Press.

The trade-off would allow Iran to run several hundred of the devices at its Fordo facility, although the Iranians would not be allowed to do work that could lead to an atomic bomb and the site would be subject to international inspections, according to Western officials familiar with details of negotiations now underway. In return, Iran would be required to scale back the number of centrifu-

ges it runs at its Natanz facility and accept other restrictions on nuclear-related work.

Instead of uranium, which can be enriched to be the fissile core of a nuclear weapon, any centrifuges permitted at Fordo would be fed elements such as zinc, xenon or germanium for separating out isotopes used in medicine, industry or science, the officials said. The number of centrifuges would not be enough to produce the amount of uranium needed to produce a weapon within a year — the minimum time-frame that Washington and its negotiating partners demand.

The officials spoke only on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss details of the sensitive negotiations as the latest round of talks began between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif. The negotiators are racing to meet an end-of-March deadline to reach an outline of an agreement that would grant



American, European and Iranian officials wait for the start of a meeting at a hotel in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Thursday during negotiations on the Iranian nuclear program.

BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran relief from international sanctions in exchange for curbing its nuclear program. The deadline for a final agreement is June 30.

One senior U.S. official de-

clined to comment on the specific proposal but said the goal since the beginning of the talks has been "to have Fordo converted so it's not being used to enrich uranium." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## ALABAMA

### Killer grandmother should get life: Jury

A jury is recommending life without parole for a woman convicted of capital murder in her granddaughter's running death.

Jurors, in a non-binding recommendation, rejected prosecutors' pleas for a death sentence for Joyce Hardin Garrard in the February 2012 death of nine-year-old Savannah Hardin.

The decision came on a split vote: seven for life, five for death. It came Thursday on Garrard's 50th birthday. Under Alabama law, a vote of at least 10 of 12 jurors was required for the panel to recommend death. A simple majority could recom-

mend life.

The verdict is only a suggestion under Alabama law. Circuit Judge Billy Ogletree will make the final sentencing decision at a hearing May 11.

The same jury convicted Garrard of capital murder last week.

The jury began deliberating late in the morning after prosecution and defence attorneys presented closing arguments in the sentencing phase of Garrard's trial.

Assistant District Attorney Marcus Reid asked jurors to recommend the death penalty.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## IN BRIEF

### Palestinians committed war crimes too: Amnesty

The human rights group Amnesty International said in a report Thursday that Palestinian militants committed war crimes during the 2014 Gaza conflict by killing civilians using indiscriminate projectiles.

The 50-day Gaza war left more than 2,100 Palestin-

ians dead, mostly civilians, according to Palestinian and UN officials. On the Israeli side, 66 soldiers and six civilians were killed.

Palestinian militants launched unguided rockets and mortars toward civilian areas, a breach of international law, the human rights group said.

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## CHINA

## Grannies face new rules for dances

Along with two dozen of her fellow “dancing grannies,” 60-year-old Zhang Jinsu twirls and steps her way every night across a central Beijing plaza, sometimes gliding over the pavement like a butterfly, at other times marching with a plastic rifle.

But when new Chinese government instructions on such popular, and loud, senior dances take hold, Zhang may need to learn a new routine.

Zhang is part of a senior health trend that's filled squares and apartment courtyards across China, winning the admiration of medical experts but upsetting neighbours over the noise level.

“It's never quiet,” said Gan Xuehua, a 31-year-old man whose apartment in the southern city of Nanchang overlooks a plaza where the women dance. “These grannies play music all day ... and every night from 7 to 9. It culminates with 70 to 80 people gathering with two 75-centimetre-tall speakers. The music is really loud.”

This week, Chinese officials stepped into the fray by announcing the imminent arrival of new regulations on where seniors can dance and how loud they can blast their music. They also unveiled 12 officially sanctioned square dance steps set to such popular songs as “Little Apple” and “China is Beautiful,” although an official said the steps were not compulsory.

To some, the square-dance clampdown was a step too far for an increasingly restrictive government that has tightened controls on everything from college classroom lectures to the lavish spending of top government officials.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Star Wars sets in Tunisia declared safe from attack

## TATOUINE

## President clears up false information for fans

It was a flood of messages from concerned friends abroad that alerted the president of Tunisia's Star Wars fan club that the sets of his beloved film were under attack by militants — at least according to exaggerated reports in the foreign press.

In a country still reeling from a terrorist attack last

week on a museum that killed 21 people, a misleading report from CNN that said the iconic sets were a “way station” for the radical Islamic State group infiltrating from Libya soon went viral. The report suggested that the sets were vulnerable after recent arrests and discoveries of weapons caches near the town of Tataouine, which lent its name to Luke Skywalker's home planet.

Tunisian officials on Thursday made clear there was nothing to worry about.

“This information is false and without foundation and doesn't reflect the reality,” said



**We were obliged to reassure our friends and fans abroad that it's fine, everything is OK, the sites are protected**

Abderrahman Amer, Tunisian Star Wars fan

Mohammed Sayem, a member of the tourism commission in the western city of Tozeur.

Col. Mokhtar Hammami of the National Guard told The Associated Press he has 1,500 men, including special forces, canine units and bomb control experts under his command patrolling the area.

“I can tell you without a

shadow of a doubt that all is normal, in fact we've seen a big influx of foreign tourists and Tunisians” in the area, he said.

The story was picked up widely and was trending on Twitter — even though the main Star Wars sets are hundreds of miles west of Tataouine, on the other side of the country near Tozeur.

“The information is totally crazy, every outlet added a bit more,” said Star Wars fan Abderrahman Amer.

“We were obliged to reassure our friends and fans abroad that it's fine, everything is OK, the sites are protected — there was even a festival of electronic music there a few weeks ago,” said Amer. “There is a world of difference between an Islamic State base and a music festival.”

Concerns over security have heightened after last week's attack at the national museum that killed 21 people, including many foreigners.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



**NEWBORNS PARTY OF FIVE** African lioness named Rani, or Queen, sits with her newly born five cubs at the house of her owner who has grown her as a pet, Thursday in Multan, Pakistan. The lioness gave birth to five healthy cubs. Lions normally only have litters of two or three cubs. ASIM TANVEER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### NOTICE OF HEARING FOR Permanent Guardianship Order To Manuel Espinosa

Take notice that on the **22nd day of April, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.**, at **Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1205, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta**, a hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order**; of your child born on **July 21, 2011**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you **MUST** appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Elice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink  
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services  
Phone: (403) 297-2978

### NOTICE OF HEARING FOR Permanent Guardianship Order To Joel Rodriguez

Take notice that on the **22nd day of April, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.**, at **Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1205, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta**, a hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order**; of your child born on **July 21, 2011**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you **MUST** appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Elice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink  
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services  
Phone: (403) 297-2978

### NOTICE OF HEARING FOR Temporary Guardianship Order to Jamal Jenkins

Take notice that on the **30th day of March 2015 at 2:00 p.m.**, at **Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1208, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta**, an Initial Custody Hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Custody Order; Temporary Guardianship Order** of your children born on **August 28, 2007 and January 31, 2010**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you **MUST** appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

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Calgary Region, Child and Family Services  
Phone: (403) 297-2978





Oklahoma Natural Gas workers walk through the tornado-damaged River Oaks Estates mobile home park on Thursday in Sand Springs, Okla. SUE OGROCKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Storm kills one in U.S. midwest

### OKLAHOMA Tens of thousands without power across state

The first batch of severe weather in the U.S. tornado season devastated an Oklahoma mobile home park, as storms across the area damaged buildings, tore off roofs and left debris strewn across roads. One person was killed and several were injured.

Tens of thousands of Oklahoma residents were without power early Thursday as officials assessed the damage.

Tulsa County Sheriff's Capt. Billy McKelvey said one person was killed in the mobile home park, which he said could accommodate 40 to 50 trailers.

Joe Sellers, a National Weather

Service meteorologist, said survey teams would assess the damage Thursday, but that it was likely a tornado that hit Sand Springs.

Gov. Mary Fallin declared a state of emergency for 25 Oklahoma counties that were hit hardest by the storm.

The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management said it had reports of nine people taken to hospitals. McKelvey said he believed at least 15 were hurt.

The tornado season usually ramps up for parts of the U.S. in March, but until Tuesday — when a waterspout formed over an Arkansas lake — the U.S. hadn't had a tornado in more than a month.

Weather patterns this month funneled cold air into much of the country, depriving the atmosphere of the warm, moist air necessary for forming bad storms for most of the month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### MILITARY

## Soldier details 'hellish' Taliban captivity

U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl says he was tortured repeatedly in the five years he was held captive by the Taliban: beaten with a copper cable, chained spread-eagle to a bed, and threatened with execution after trying to escape.

Bergdahl, 28, described this harsh treatment in Afghanistan in a note his lawyer released Thursday, after sharing it with the Army in an attempt to avert a court martial.

The Army charged Bergdahl nevertheless with desertion and misbehaviour before the enemy, for leaving his post in June 2009. He was freed last year in exchange for five Taliban commanders held prisoner at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Now he faces up to life in prison if convicted of the criminal charges.

The case against Bergdahl has been highly politicized, with members of Congress demanding he be sent to prison.

Wednesday's charges prompted fresh criticism of President Barack Obama.

Bergdahl says he tried about a dozen times to escape, and that his captors' response was brutal.

"In the beginning of my captivity, after my first two escape attempts, for about three months I was chained to a bed spread-eagle and blindfolded," Bergdahl wrote.

He also says he was beaten with a rubber hose, fists and

hit with the butt of an AK-47, so hard the rifle's stock broke off.

Eugene Fidell, one of Bergdahl's lawyers, said this suffering should be considered when weighing any punishment.

"This is a hellish environment he was kept in for nearly five years, particularly after he did his duty in trying to escape," Fidell, a former military lawyer now in private practice, told The Associated Press on Thursday.

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### NOTICE OF HEARING FOR Temporary Guardianship Order To Mohammed Farah

Take notice that on the 30th day of March 2015 at 2:00 p.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1208, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta, an Initial Custody Hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: Custody Order; Temporary Guardianship Order of your children born on August 28, 2007 and January 31, 2010. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

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Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink  
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services  
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SUPREME COURT

## Prince's private letters to be published

Prime Minister David Cameron and Prince Charles expressed dismay Thursday at a Supreme Court ruling that paves the way for the publication of Charles' private letters to government ministers.

A spokesman for Charles said "Clarence House is disappointed the principle of privacy has not been upheld."

The case involves 27 letters Charles wrote to seven government departments 10 years ago. Known as "black spider" letters, they are believed to contain strong personal views.

Critics have charged that Charles has become too involved in advocating positions. He is first in line for the throne, and is expected to remain politically neutral. In the past he has expressed strong views on architecture, climate change and genetically modified foods, among other matters.

The government has long tried to block the release of the letters, but the Supreme Court upheld an earlier ruling backing their publication. Cameron said the government will now consider how to release the documents, which have been sought by the Guardian newspaper under freedom of information rules for roughly a decade.

The prime minister said the case was about "the principle that senior members of the royal family are able to express their views to government confidentially. I think most people would agree this is fair enough."

The timetable for the release of the letters is not yet clear.

The Guardian's chief editor, Alan Rusbridger, said editors are "delighted" with the decision. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The Guardian's chief editor, Alan Rusbridger, said editors are "delighted" with the decision. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Women in traditional dress attend a service on Thursday for the reinterment of the mortal remains of King Richard III at Leicester Cathedral in Leicester, U.K. RUI VIEIRA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Richard III gets burial with dignity

LEICESTER, U.K.

### Infamous king's skeleton found 500 years after his death

A maligned monarch found under a parking lot was buried in pomp Thursday, as Britain embraced comeback King Richard III, a long-reviled ruler who is experiencing a remarkable, posthumous renaissance.

Royalty, religious leaders and actor Benedict Cumberbatch joined archeologists, Richard's distant relatives and curious Britons for a service in Leicester Cathedral that saw the king's bones buried with dignity, 530 years after his violent death.

"Richard's posthumous reputation has been less than glorious," Gordon Campbell, the University of Leicester's public orator, noted with understatement about a man whose name was long a byword for villainy.

But now, Campbell said, he has "the greatest following of all English monarchs" apart from Queen Elizabeth II.

Britain in the 21st century has enthusiastically embraced the story of the medieval king whose battle-scarred skeleton was found under a parking lot in Leicester in 2012.

### + BACKGROUND

#### History in the making

Richard was buried, without a coffin, in a church that was later demolished. For centuries his image was defined by William Shakespeare's Richard III — a hunchbacked, power-hungry tyrant who murdered his two young nephews because they were rivals for the crown.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands came to view his coffin ahead of Thursday's service, which was televised live.

In his sermon, Bishop of Leicester Tim Stevens said the discovery of the skeleton "has broken open not just a car park, but a nation's story."

Stevens said Richard was found just 40 metres from where he was being reburied.

The service was the culmination of a wave of Richardmania that has been building since archeologists looking for Richard dug up a skeleton with a distinctively curved spine.

Scientific sleuthing — including radiocarbon dating, bone analysis and DNA tests — confirmed the remains belonged to the long-lost king, who died at the Battle of Bosworth, near Leicester, in 1485.

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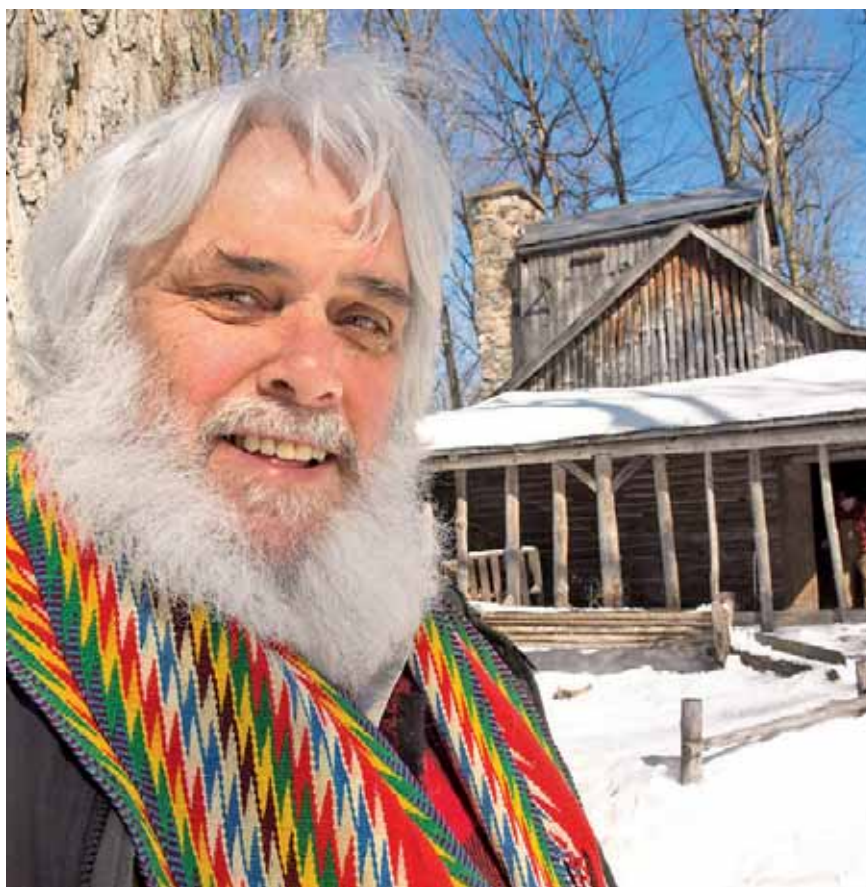
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Pierre Faucher, owner of Sucrerie de la Montagne in Rigaud, Que., is seen Tuesday at his sugar shack, where he boils the sap over a wood fire. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Long winter slows maple business

## SEASONAL INDUSTRIES

### Producers need warmer weather to get the sap flowing

Just like any other crop, maple syrup is at the mercy of Mother Nature, and the frigid winter hasn't been kind to Canadian sugar bush owners.

Many producers, like Ray Bonenberg of Mapleside Sugar Bush south of Pembroke, Ont., are keeping a close eye on the thermometer and anxiously waiting for a stretch of warmer days to get the sap flowing.

"I've been tapping all day, drilling holes and tapping, and it's running on the south side of the tree but not on the north side of the tree. It's too cold," said Bonenberg, who is also president of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association.

But he is unfazed, because last season was also late due to the cold temperatures.

Production can vary widely from north to south. A few producers in the Sault Ste. Marie area boiled until May 1 last year, while those south of Highway 7 in Ontario were finished by the second week of April.

Quebec is experiencing a similar situation to Ontario this season, according to Caroline Cyr of the Federation of Quebec Maple Syrup Producers.

"In general, the season is late," she said, adding that she expects it to begin in earnest by the end of March.

Pierre Faucher, owner of Sucrerie de la Montagne in Rigaud, Que., was jubilant this week as sap started dripping into his 3,500 buckets. He's not letting the delay get to him. After all, says Faucher, you can't control Mother Nature.

"Nature doesn't have a watch," Faucher said from his operation west of Montreal. A combination of nights below freezing and days above freezing is needed to get the sap flowing in sugar maple trees.

Faucher and four others gath-

## market minute

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**DOW JONES:** 17,678.23 (-40.31)

er sap by hand and boil it over a wood fire in a sugar shack. It takes about 40 litres of maple sap to make one litre of maple syrup. "Normal people have pipelines and pumps and stuff, but I wanted to keep it traditional," he said.

Deep snow in the Maritimes has meant producers have had to do some digging to uncover their lines. But sap flow a few weeks behind schedule was buying them time to get their trees tapped. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## HOW ARE MARTHA AND HENRY'S KIDS DOING THESE DAYS?

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## ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

### Vince Gasparro's: The kind of place that makes a neighbourhood.

Nick Gasparro had a hard time keeping up a phone conversation on Thursday behind the counter of his family butcher shop. Customers kept walking into the store, some in search of an Easter ham, others offering their condolences on the recent death of Vincenzo Gasparro, Nick's father and the founder of the family business. "Hold on," Nick, 42, said to me over the phone.

Then I heard a woman's voice. "I just found out yesterday about your dad. I'm so sorry," she said.

"Thank you," Nick said. "Thank you for coming, honey."

Vince Gasparro's Meat Market has stood on Toronto's west-end corner of Bloor Street and Roxton Road since 1960. And it's exactly the kind of place that makes a neighbourhood worth living in.

They're in every Canadian city. Mom-and-pop shops, they're called dismissively.

They're not the country's economic leaders, if you go by GDP. Most of that is driven by mid-sized or large companies, as CIBC economist Benjamin Tal noted. Industry Canada doesn't even break down the contribution of companies with less than 49 employees (a group which makes up 30 per cent of the GDP).

But these micro-businesses also account for 75 per cent of companies that employ people in Canada. They are nimble, adaptable, the economic equivalent of the "oil that oils

the machine," Tal said.

Plus, he added, "there are some things that you cannot measure."

For example, what does it mean when longtime customer Vanessa, 34, calls the butcher shop "an institution"?

How do you measure the impact of hiring the likes of 24-year-old Mik, who is also a musician, by offering him a flexible, reliable part-time job while he pursues his dreams?

What is the worth of a man like Vince, who knew everybody's name, and their kids, and their grandkids; who took IOUs when customers were short at the end of the month; who went to the funerals and wedding of his customers, and whose customers, in turn, filled an old stone church one rainy morning this week? These are intangibles, but they have an economic impact just by drawing people to want to call this corner of a city home.

It's challenging times for independent shops forced to compete against national chains with deep pockets. But without these kinds of businesses, and the people who run them, our cities would be all the more uniform, all the less human.

I asked Nick, who has been a butcher with his father for 20 years, how long he wanted to keep the store going.

"I don't know that, honey, for as long as I'm going to be here," he said. "Hopefully a long time."

# Strange love

## THE KOHLER REPORT

Rebecca Kohler



I used to think online dating was an inorganic and awkward way to meet people.

"Hello, my computer says we might get along, would you like to eat pho together?"

And maybe it is a little weird, but on second thought, the new-ish phenomenon of apps such as Tinder and OkCupid look totally natural when compared to the age-old art form of matchmaking.

Two B.C. women are asking for their money back after paying a matchmaking service, LifeMates Canada, thousands of dollars to find them Mr. Right ... or at least Mr. Pretty Good. Both women claim that LifeMates set them up on dates with men that came nowhere near to what they'd asked for.

While I feel for the women involved, I don't think they should get their money back because in the words of the Beatles: Can't Buy Me Love.

I hated the movie Inception; I have other friends who thought it was a masterpiece. I think John Fluevog shoes are an affront to the feet they're worn on; I have a friend who won't wear any other brand. If movies and shoes are subjective, why would anyone think we could agree on who's lovable?

I went on a blind date once. My friends told me the guy was tall, dark and cute. I pictured Tom Cruise (on stilts). When I got to the date, my heart sank. The guy wasn't ugly — he was attractive — but he wasn't what I had pictured and he wasn't my type. What is my type? Ha! I wouldn't be able to tell you until I saw it and even then I probably wouldn't be

able to pinpoint what it was about that person that caught my eye.

This isn't only about looks. A man who's "funny" to some, might be a Yakov Smirnoff to others. Maybe he's a "great cook," but he cooks vegan and you like steak. There are a million reasons why a good quality on paper might not live up to itself in real life. And what about pheromones and body language and fashion choices? Your date might be nice and cute and smart, but you're too distracted by the socks-and-sandals look to notice.

I've dated online and yes, there were (many) times I was disappointed in that scenario, too. Maybe the guy didn't look like his photo or his funny email banter translated to awkward real-life conversation. One guy kept making racist jokes while another somehow had me paying for

everything (actually, I think that was the same guy). But on my way home from those dates, at least I knew I had chosen those men.

I had no one to blame for the losers I was dating but myself.

Matchmakers are middlemen while online dating services basically act as a directory of "who's single." You peruse, you choose. Compared to LifeMates Canada, OkCupid looks as natural as a drug-free birth.

If I can't trust the people who know me best to buy me a sweater I like for Christmas, why would anyone trust a stranger to find them love?

**Rebecca Kohler** is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter at @becca\_kohler

## Happy face/Sad face

From **naked neighbours** to **cat lady whisperers**, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:



### Grin and bare it

People in Charlotte, N.C., will not get a reprieve from the sight of their neighbour standing buck naked by his doorway several times a week. Police say that while the local law prohibits being nude in places the public has access to, there's nothing that can be done in this case. Maybe it's time for the local residents association to take matters into their own hands and strategically plant some shrubbery in front of naked dude's yard.



### Beginning of the end (fingers crossed)

In what's been heralded as an important step in eliminating the virus for good, researchers "deleted" HIV from human DNA. The scientists used a DNA-snipping enzyme to cut out the virus, and then the cell's repair machinery took over, fusing the cell back together. And as if this isn't excellent enough, the process potentially could be applied to many other diseases. Not bad scientists, not bad.



### Hey kitty kitty kitty

Hey guys, can we drop the crazy cat-lady trope already? Beth-Ann Colebourne delighted the Internet this week when she posted a video to YouTube of a lynx she spotted outside her northern Ontario shop. But then a bunch of meaneys questioned her sanity because she says things in the video like, "What's up, buddy?" to the wild cat. Listen, trolls: Colebourne has chased a bear away before. She is an animal whisperer. She's awesome, and she's got it covered, OK?



### A whole new world

Are you in desperate need of a break from the repetitive monotony of your life, daydreaming of perhaps being on a palm-tree lined beach? And you know how even if you can't immediately make that place your reality, just the thought of being there makes you feel so much better? Expand your fantasy repertoire with this new Japanese exhibit. Artists created an immersive interactive garden of 2,300 floating flowers inspired by a Zen koan. Domo arigato, guys, for creating a beautiful world where person and flower become one.

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### PHILOSOPHER CAT by Jason Logan





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## GET HARD

## Comedian is always up for slapstick promo stunts

## IN FOCUS

## Richard Crouse



On March 12, he played for 10 Major League Baseball teams in five spring training games in one day. Since then he's roasted Justin Bieber, walked red carpets at South By Southwest, dressed as a leprechaun with David Letterman, appeared on The Tonight Show in drag as snack cake queen Little Debbie, and traded barbs with Jon Stewart while wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with dozens of pictures of Zach Galifianakis.

A few years ago, I landed in the middle of one of Ferrell's outlandish publicity stunts.

In July 2012 he was stump-ing for The Campaign, a po-litical satire co-starring Gali-fianakis. The hot-and-steamy Toronto summer afternoon began with the actors riding down Yonge Street, throw-



**Sitting on a bucket with his pants down? No big deal for Ferrell. Get Hard opens this weekend.** CONTRIBUTED

Inside, I hosted a press conference with them and Mayor Rob Ford. Onstage, actors posing as Mounties guarded the Stanley Cup as Ford, then the most famous, and controversial, politician in Canada, gave the guys advice on how to campaign. Nothing was rehearsed and everyone was a bit nervous as I brought the three to the dais.

Ferrell talked about what

"We step up to the mic. We're supposed to say a few words, and I say, 'How about a big round of applause for your mayor, Rob Ford.' It was literally ... not even a smattering of applause, just two people."

"It was just so silent that I actually had to comment on it. So I said, 'Mr. Mayor, that's a horrible ovation,' and the press corps burst out laughing. And he was just laughing.

**“It was just so silent that I actually had to comment on it. So I said, ‘Mr. Mayor, that’s a horrible ovation.’**

## Will Ferrell on doing a stunt with Rob Ford

Ford was a good sport and played along. He gave them each a miniature Stanley Cup, pinned "Rob Ford for Mayor" buttons on their chests and handed out his famous business cards, fridge



It may not have been the smoothest promotional stunt of all time, but it certainly was a memorable one.

The next year, Ferrell worked Ford into the promotion for *Anchorman 2*. By this time Ford's scandal-ridden term in office, fuelled by admissions of drug use, had rocketed him into the international spotlight.

Ferrell, in character as ridiculous San Diego newscaster Ron Burgundy, came out in support of Ford's re-election.

"Ron doesn't realize how much trouble Rob Ford is in," said Ferrell to Metro.

"He just thinks he's a great guy. Gregarious. Fun. Life of the party. Ron's advice would just be 'Keep doing what you're doing, it's obviously working.'"

He even wrote a campaign song to the tune of Loverboy's *Working for the Weekend*.

As usual, Ford took it all in stride, tweeting, "I had to laugh at my friend Ron Burgundy & his take on my 2014 re-election campaign song."

There's been no mention of Rob Ford in the promotion for *Get Hard*, but if Ferrell ever makes *The Campaign 2: The Re-Election* perhaps he'll give the former mayor a call.



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# Getting a real feel for movies

## FUTURE OF CINEMA

### Virtual reality technology catches eye of filmmakers

**Matt Kwong**  
Metro | Life

Comfy seating. Hot popcorn. And a stereoscopic virtual-reality headset for your viewing pleasure. It's a new cinematic experience envisioned by Hollywood and electronics manufacturers keen to tap into the hot VR market.

In recent years, Microsoft, Sony, Facebook, Google and Samsung have assumed a "gold-rush mentality" for VR, tech analyst Kevin Restivo said.

"As the core technology becomes refined for the masses, they're looking for wider applications," he said. "The movies are an obvious one."

Whereas the usual movie-watching experience is a one-directional affair, VR lets you step inside a scene, giving you the feeling you can move around in a film's environment. If you see an image on screen, or if a character is to your left, you can turn your head instead to the right and explore your surroundings with a 360-degree view.

The technology definitely caught the interest of attendees at this year's Sundance film festival.

A section dedicated to VR filmmaking was a main attraction at the fest. Users donned 3D wraparound goggles to experience an original scene from Wild between Reese Witherspoon and Laura Dern.

Last month, premium cable network HBO and Lionsgate, the studio behind the \$1.5-billion Hunger Games franchise, announced content creation deals for HTC's much-hyped Vive system.

Beyond gaming, it's "the next logical step" for the Vive, said Jeff Gattis, an HTC spokesman.

"We can take content and brands that are known, and just open up new windows of entertainment," he said. "Whether that's going to be full features or clips, at a minimum, it's the creation of immersive virtual reality experiences."

That immersion aspect is what most excites Tre Azam. His U.K. company manufactures MyndPlay, a brainwave-sensing headband which, when used with VR displays such as the Oculus, allows a viewer to "change the storyline" of a video based on emotional responses.

"We've got a MyndGuardian video that puts you into an attack scenario where you're being mugged," Azam said. "You can train your mind into going into fight or flight mode. Maybe you want to defend yourself instead of panicking."

Developers, he said, have built some videos with 32 possible interactions.

"Imagine you've got a

90-minute movie where every scene could have a different possibility thrown in," he said.

So far, studios have been mostly leveraging VR experiences to hype up their big productions.

In collaboration with Lionsgate, Samsung's Gear VR device released a short on March 20 to promote the second film in its popular Divergent series.

Insurgent: Shatter Reality starred actors reprising their roles from the films.

HBO has experimented with short movie-making for VR headsets as well.

Attendees at last year's South By Southwest lined up to demo a Game of Thrones experience using Facebook's Oculus Rift VR headset. Users joined the Night's Watch and climbed a ladder to the top of the 700-foot ice wall.

As for when full-length VR feature films might ever take off as main cinematic attractions? That's hard to tell, said independent filmmaker Elli Raynai, who is completing his VR short for the Oculus Rift.

"I don't know if virtual reality is going to replace cinema," Raynai said. "All I know is it has different rules, it presents a new way of telling stories, and that's exciting for filmmakers."

## + Q&A

Cinephile Jesse Wentz, director of film programs at TIFF Bell Lightbox shared some thoughts on the technology.

**On the lasting power of VR films:** "I think we're a little early in the days to dismiss it as a gimmick."

**On the solitude aspect of VR:** "I think you'd be hard-pressed to create a physical communal experience if the idea is total immersion in a virtual world."

**On the difference between VR and cinema:**

"I wouldn't rule out some kind of future in which virtual reality can offer something similar to the movie-going experience. But ultimately, seeing a movie is seeing a moving in cinema. There's been no way to recreate it for 100 years."

MATT KWONG/METRO



A scene from Insurgent: Shatter Reality for Samsung's Gear VR.

## VIRTUAL REALITY

### A look at the VR headsets

**1 Oculus Rift/Facebook (formerly Oculus Rift)** Two development kits released. No consumer release date yet. DK2 costs \$350.

**2 Project Morpheus/Sony** Head-mounted display to be compatible with PlayStation 4 and PlayStation Vita gaming consoles. Anticipated early 2016 release.

**3 Google Cardboard/Google** Google's DIY device folds out from a piece of cardboard to turn a smartphone into a

VR headset. Users can download the app and either purchase a toolkit online, or build one themselves by following free online tutorials.

**4 The Vive/HTC** Marketed as a "premium" virtual reality experience, and powered by SteamVR. Anticipated release in the spring.

**5 Samsung Gear VR/Samsung** This is the first head-mounted display to hit the market, and costs \$199 US. The headmount was specifically designed to work with a Galaxy Note 4 smartphone.

**6 Virtual Boy/Nintendo** Released in 1995, then quickly discontinued the following year after poor sales and reports that some players were experiencing headaches from overuse. Originally retailed for around \$180 US.

“Imagine you’ve got a 90-minute movie where every scene could have a different possibility thrown in

Tre Azam of Myndplay



PHOTOS COURTESY  
HTC AND CANADIAN  
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# So many men, so much talent

## INTERVIEW

### Actress Patricia Clarkson gushes about co-stars in *October Gale*

Patricia Clarkson's new thriller, *October Gale*, sees her working again with director Ruba Nadda, and starring opposite Callum Keith Rennie, Tim Roth and Scott Speedman.

"Can you imagine I got to be in a film with those men?" she says. "I arrived on the set and said, 'Oh my God, Ruba, I have died and gone to heaven.' Not only are they beautiful men, physically, but if you threw all their handsomeness out the window, they're gorgeous actors. First class ... singular actors."

The New Orleans native, an Academy Award nominee for Best Supporting Actress for her performance in *Pieces of April*, plays a doctor mourning the loss of her husband. For solace she retreats to a remote cottage in Georgian Bay. Her time of quiet reflection and healing is disrupted, however, by the ap-



Scott Speedman and Patricia Clarkson in *October Gale*. CONTRIBUTED

pearance of a mysterious and seriously injured young man, played by Speedman.

*October Gale* is the second collaboration between Clarkson and director Ruba Nadda.

"Ruba and I are very similar gals," Clarkson says.

"We like our hair and our lipstick and our high heels. I have four older sisters and

Rubba is truly like the little sister I never had. We are like family. We have a second language now. It's kismet. "I think I'm just the luckiest gal to know her and to have her so deeply in my life; in my professional life, in my personal life. I know her family now. I know her sisters ... We're just family and yet we are able to



**She's Syrian-Palestinian and I'm Southern, so watch out**

Patricia Clarkson on her relationship with Ruba Nadda

separate all of that when we enter the workplace. We're both workhorses. We're very high energy, we don't take no for an answer, we'll fight to the death. She's Syrian-Palestinian and I'm Southern, so watch out."

Their first film together, *Cairo Time*, was the Best Reviewed Romance on Rotten Tomatoes for 2010 and soon they will begin

work on a series for HBO. Clarkson says her on-set relationship with Nadda is based on respect and the director's unique vision.

"Ruba has the courage to make films that people want to make," she says, "the kind of movies auteurs think they're making, but she actually has the courage to do it."

RICHARD CROUSE/METRO

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# A Terminator for all seasons

## TERMINATOR: GENISYS

### Army's back to introduce the Terminator to a new generation

With four films (two great, two questionable), over \$1 billion in box office receipts, and a jumbled time-travel mythology, Terminator: Genisys is taking the elements of James Cameron's 1984 original and twisting them a bit to create an entirely new timeline. Two more Terminators are planned.

Getting a jump on a summer that's chock full of franchise fare, including continuations of The Avengers and Jurassic Park, Paramount Pictures recently showcased a few minutes of action-packed footage from Terminator: Genisys.

Key cast members, including Schwarzenegger, were also made available — all to help generate early buzz for what the studio hopes will be a bona fide summer blockbuster.

Paramount is on a major push to restore its once robust production prowess. Although

its franchises, including Transformers and Mission: Impossible, are successful, the studio has lagged behind its Hollywood counterparts in recent years.

Seated on a massive couch next to his three new co-stars, Schwarzenegger seemed glad to be back. "I watched all the movies again to really get up to speed with the character," he said.

The film opens in a familiar spot — 2029, when the war against the all-powerful artificial intelligence system SkyNet is raging. Resistance leader John Connor (Jason Clarke) once again sends soldier Kyle Reese (Jai Courtney) back to 1984 to save his mother, Sarah Connor (Emilia Clarke), from being killed by a Terminator. But this time, things are different. Sarah has her own protector: An aged Terminator who has raised her since childhood.

"We're really harking back to James Cameron's original characters that were in one and two and we're taking it from there," said Emilia Clarke.

The project on the whole is an intensely hush-hush endeavour, but director Alan Taylor (Thor: The Dark World) has said

**"In '84, this was total science fiction — when machines take over. And now, we're there."**

Arnold Schwarzenegger

many times that, at its heart, the film is about man's relationship to technology in the modern age. In 2015, that idea has evolved from when James Cameron first introduced us to the T-800 31 years ago.

"In '84, this was total science fiction — when machines take over. And now, we're there," said Schwarzenegger. "That's the wild thing about it. When we did this movie, it was kind of almost reality, unlike in 1984 where we thought, 'oh well wouldn't this be a funny world.' Things have changed."

Jason Clarke jumped in to agree.

"Good science fiction is relatable. It mirrors what we're going through and Cameron set up wonderful, iconic meta-



Jason Clarke, Emilia Clarke, Jai Courtney, and Arnold Schwarzenegger pose for a portrait during press day for Terminator: Genisys in Los Angeles. CASEY CURRY/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

phors and characters for us to play with," he said. "Judgment Day still exists. It just might not be nuclear."

While there are many Terminator die-hards out there

waiting, as Courtney says, "to criticize this thing," when it finally hits theatres on July 1, he believes they'll be pleasantly surprised.

"The beauty of what we've

done is not only stayed loyal to the original source material but opened it up to a whole new generation," said Courtney. "I think we'll succeed in bringing them in." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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# Now in theatres



## HORROR It Follows

**Director:** David Robert Mitchell  
**Starring:** Maika Monroe, Keir Gilchrist

After a strange sexual encounter, a teenager finds herself haunted by nightmarish visions and the inescapable sense that something is after her.

### ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **94%** Audience: **72%**



## ANIMATED Home

**Director:** Tim Johnson  
**Starring:** Jim Parsons, Rihanna

When Oh, a lovable misfit from another planet, lands on Earth and finds himself on the run, he forms an unlikely friendship with a girl named Tip who is on a quest of her own. Through a series of adventures with Tip, Oh comes to understand that being different and making mistakes is all part of being human.

### ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **40%** Audience: **69%**



## COMEDY Get Hard

**Director:** Etan Cohen  
**Starring:** Will Ferrell, Kevin Hart

Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart headline this Warner Bros. comedy about a wrongfully convicted investment banker who prepares for prison life with the help of the man who washes his car. Etan Cohen directs, with Ian Roberts and Jay Martel handling screenwriting duties.

### ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **28%** Audience: **+95%**



## ART HOUSE/DRAMA White God

**Director:** Kornél Mundruczó  
**Starring:** Zsófia Psotta, Sándor Zsótér

When young Lili is forced to give up her beloved dog Hagen, because its mixed-breed heritage is deemed 'unfit' by The State, she and the dog begin a dangerous journey back towards each other. At the same time, all the unwanted, unloved and so-called 'unfit' dogs rise up.

### ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **86%** Audience: **+84%**



## ACTION The Divergent Series: Insurgent

**Director:** Robert Schwentke  
**Starring:** Shailene Woodley, Ansel Elgort, Theo James

SpongeBob Square Pants, the world's favourite sea-dwelling invertebrate, comes ashore to our world for his most super-heroic adventure yet.

### ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **NOT YET REVIEWED** Audience: **+86%**



## DOCUMENTARY The Hunting Ground

**Director:** Kirby Dick

From the team behind The Invisible War, comes a startling exposé of rape crimes on U.S. campuses, institutional cover-ups and the brutal social toll on victims and their families. Weaving together verité footage and first-person testimonies, the film follows survivors as they pursue their education while fighting for justice.

### ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **90%** Audience: **59%**

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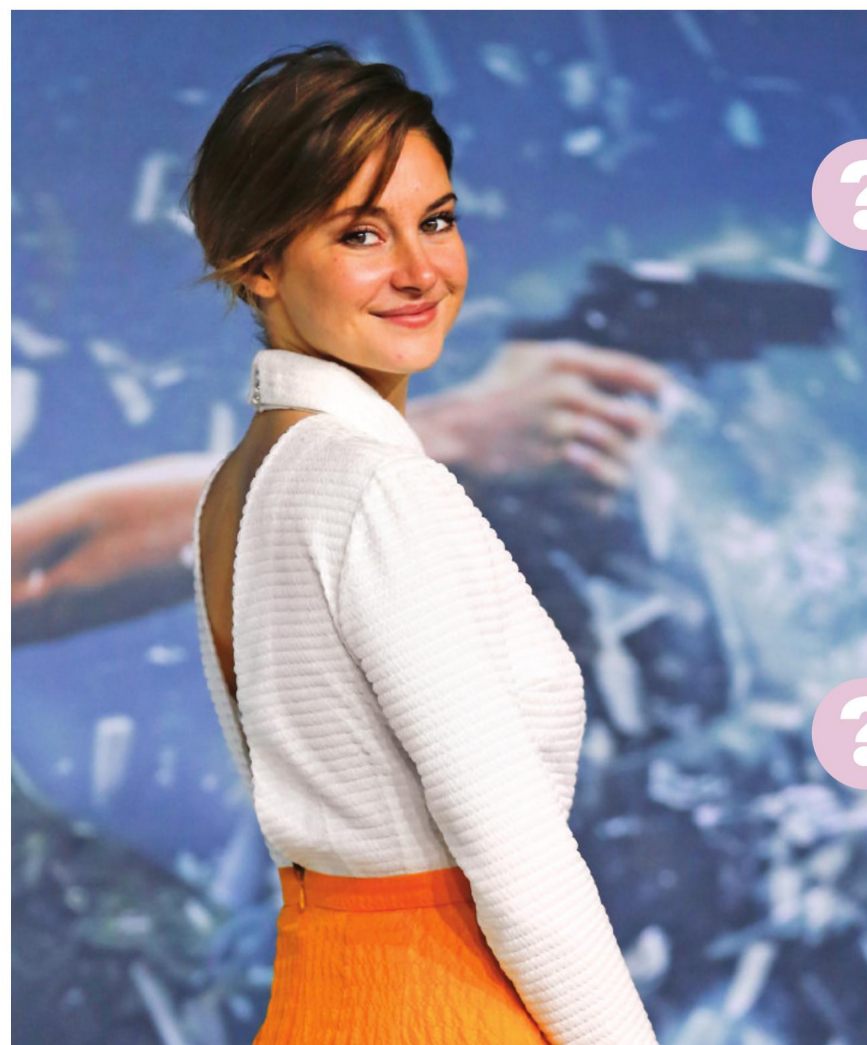
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# What's next for Shailene



Shailene Woodley's star is on the rise. ALL PHOTOS THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/GETTY

## + IN BRIEF

### Steven Spielberg to direct Ready Player One

Deadline reports that the man who has helmed everything from Jaws and E.T. to Raiders of the Lost Ark and Minority Report is about to get to grips with an adaptation of the cult sci-fi novel.

Written by Ernest Cline and set in a dystopian 2044, Ready Player One revolves largely around a virtual reality game focused on references to 1980s pop culture. And, as Deadline points out, some of those references are to Spielberg himself.

It is understood that the film will be the next cinematic project in Spielberg's schedule following the completion of his current film — a big-screen adaptation of Roald Dahl's children's story The BFG.

AFP

### Mad Max to make long-awaited comeback at Cannes

Mad Max: Fury Road, the fourth film in the dystopian cult saga by director George Miller, will screen on May 14 at the Cannes Film Festival, the organizers confirmed

Wednesday. Thirty years after he first rode on to cinema screens across the globe, "Mad" Max Rockatansky returns in the shape of English actor Tom Hardy, who replaces Mel Gibson, the star of the previous instalments. The film is due for global release immediately after its out-of-competition screening preview in Cannes, the festival said. The announcement marks the long-awaited return of Australian director George Miller, 70, whose first Mad Max film became a worldwide hit in 1979. AFP



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Still basking in the box-office success of *Insurgent*, Shailene Woodley just might outdo herself after the franchise ends. Judging by her peers Jennifer Lawrence and Kristen Stewart, who both went from blockbuster franchises to award-winning careers, it's entirely possible. AFP

## Oscar glow like Jennifer Lawrence

The parallels between *Divergent* and *The Hunger Games* are obvious: both are sci-fi adventure stories with a strong-willed female protagonist and a dystopian setting. But there are also parallels between the career paths of the two stars: Woodley and Jennifer Lawrence. Both made a name for themselves on the big screen before age 20 thanks to indie roles. Lawrence claimed her first Oscar nomination for *Winter's Bone*, while Woodley grabbed a Golden Globe nomination for *The Descendants*, in which she co-starred with George Clooney.



## Eclectic roles like Kristen Stewart

Woodley and Lawrence both call to mind another actress who rose to global stardom in a high-grossing franchise: former *Twilight* star Kristen Stewart. Since the last *Twilight* movie, the actress has appeared in Walter Salles' adaptation of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, a film that took her to the Cannes Film Festival in 2012. After *Snow White and the Huntsman*, Stewart has graced the screen in a number of acclaimed films, including *Silence* by French director Olivier Assayas and *Still Alice* with Julianne Moore.



## + IN BRIEF

### Fully animated Smurfs reboot announced

The new movie is scheduled to hit cinema screens on March 31, 2017 and promises to be closer to the original Peyo comic books than Sony's previous two attempts.

Sony's 2011 *The Smurfs*, and its 2013 sequel *The Smurfs 2*, mixed animation with live action and, in the case of the latter, Katy Perry. According to director Kelly Asbury, this hybrid approach is being dumped in favour of traditional animation for the next instalment, as is any connection with the films that have preceded it. AFP



Smurf fans will get another film in 2017. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ditional animation for the next instalment, as is any

connection with the films that have preceded it. AFP

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Kyle Chandler and Cardellini in Netflix's *Bloodline*. SAEED ADYANI / NETFLIX

**“You don’t have to make an appointment with the television”**

**Linda Cardellini on the joys of binge watching**



Linda Cardellini says the Florida Keys location of *Bloodline* is as much a part of the show as the cast. GETTY IMAGES

# Linda finds the Keys to her heart

## INTERVIEW

### Star of Netflix's *Bloodline* is enthralled by Florida locale

**Richard Crouse**  
Metro | Canada

Linda Cardellini's new show is filmed far from Hollywood. The former *Mad Men* co-star plays Meg Rayburn, wayward daughter of a large, secretive family in the Netflix series *Bloodline*. She co-stars with Kyle Chandler, Sam Shepard and Sissy Spacek, but says the Florida Keys location is as much a part of the show as the cast.

"It is otherworldly. It is different from anything I have known," she says.

"It is a place that has a duality to it. On one hand, it is extraordinarily beautiful and on the other there is this oppressive

heat and slight danger that follows you around everywhere. When you're in the elements, there are a lot of things around you that are sometimes friendly to human beings and sometimes not so much. It's perfect for the show because it really shows this paradise and on the other side there are these really dangerous things."

When she was first approached to do the *Bloodline*, there wasn't even a script for her to read.

"There was a pitch," she says, "and I had a meeting with (producer) Glen Kessler and he spoke so beautifully with so much rich detail about who this person is, what she means to the family, what the story means. To me, that was very exciting — how much he had to say and how much he knew."

"It showed to me that the creators of the show were very interested in each and every one of the characters. To have the family dynamic be appealing you have to understand every facet of the family."

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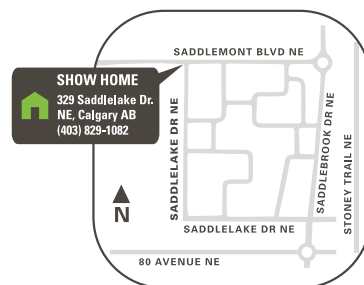
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## NOTICE OF HEARING FOR Permanent Guardianship Order To Shania Cook

Take notice that on the **13th day of April 2015 at 10:30 a.m.**, at **Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1505, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta**, a hearing for Permanent Guardianship Order will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order** of your child born on **July 19, 2014**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you **MUST** appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

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# Tove Lo has her head in the Clouds



Tove Lo says the best revenge when you've been hurt by an ex is not caring anymore. GETTY IMAGES

## INTERVIEW

### Singer's debut album has her looking at love

**Emily Laurence**  
Metro | New York City

She may have a penchant for bad habits, but that only makes things interesting. On Tove Lo's debut album *Queen of the Clouds*, sex comes before love and she deals with breakups by getting high, going to sex clubs and binge-eating Twinkies. The Swedish 27-year-old has had her fair share of heartbreak. We talk to her about the dark side of relationships and moving on after getting her heart broken.

#### On having great, no strings attached sex:

I've had a lot of sex without hoping it will turn into love. I can definitely separate the two. For me, it doesn't have to be connected. But when you are in love with someone and you have sex, it's always better. But (good sex) can definitely cloud your judgment. Talking Body is about that. If

you start off having great sex, things tend to last longer than if you started by going on a date and don't click.

The best revenge on an ex: It's hard when you've been hurt. All you want is for the other person to be hurt as well. But the best revenge is just to not care anymore. The feeling of that person wanting you back when you're completely over it is the best revenge. I've been that person, wanting the other person back and he was like, 'No, you f—ed it up.' That was probably the hardest feeling for me because I ruined something really good and now I can't fix it. That was a good revenge for that person on me.

#### On writing about the dark side of love instead of the happy parts:

I've only really had intense relationships. It's like all you see is that other person. And you also go crazy. I've never had this, 'We went out a few times and started liking each other, then we fell in love and now we're a couple.' I think those relationships probably last longer because you're OK with it not always being great.

## HEART MATTERS Tove Lo



**I love the very beginning of a relationship, when things aren't defined and you're just having a great time together. When you're a couple, sometimes there's all these demands that come with it...**

## + READY FOR ANOTHER CRACK AT LOVE

**Tove Lo may have had some tough times with romance, but she's willing to give it another go.**

- "I'm in a really great relationship right now and it's the first time I feel like it's easy," she says.
- This could definitely mark a change in her music. "My next album is maybe going to be a little happier, I think," she says.

## NOTICE OF HEARING FOR Temporary Guardianship Order To Stephanie Moose

Take notice that on the **30th day of March 2015 at 2:00 p.m.**, at **Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1208, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta**, an Initial Custody Hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Custody Order; Temporary Guardianship Order** of your children born on **August 28, 2007 and January 31, 2010**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you **MUST** appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

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# Crack up with Ferrell and Hart

## MOVIES

### Stars of Get Hard get you laughing. What else is new?

Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart have made names for themselves for being hilarious on film and TV screens, but can they be funny on paper? We sat down to chat with the Get Hard stars to find out. You be the judge.

*Reporter sits down, places digital recorder on table...*

**Will Ferrell:** Is everyone cool with this? It's a Sony product ... **Kevin Hart:** Will, that's not ... you didn't have to go there.

**Kevin, when are we going to get a movie where somebody's helping you out?**

**Hart:** I like to be in charge. You know, me and Denzel have this thing about being in charge. I'm

talking about doing Equalizer, the next one. Equalizer: Part 2. **Ferrell:** I love it.

**Hart:** Re-equalized is what they call it. It's called Equal Plus Equal. **Ferrell:** You're not going to get any argument from me.

**Hart:** No, you know what? I've started out in a place with characters where it was constantly reacting, reacting, reacting, and now it's in a place where the characters are a little bit more grounded and relatable. If this pattern continues to go, of course I think you'll see it flop. But in this particular film I'm playing two characters in the movie, so I love that I'm giving audiences the best of both worlds. As is Will.

**He's all right, I guess.**

**Hart:** Well, in this movie I think he could've been better, but at this point you take what you can. **Ferrell:** I did not give my best effort, I'm not going to lie.

**Hart:** Every day, Will showed up and was like, "I don't know about you, but I'm here for the

cheque." That's what he would say, every day, and I was like, "What the f— was that?"

**Ferrell:** I kept checking to make sure I was going to make the Pelicans game. Because we shot in New Orleans. But we were never butting heads in terms of comedy style or whatever.

**Hart:** There was the one time when you were like, "I'm going to my f—ing trailer. Kevin's up seven to nothing." He kept score.

**Ferrell:** I count the lines. I'll go through a script and I'll count the lines. I told Kevin first thing, "Hey, we're going to have a great time, but I have counted the lines and I have 30 more lines than you, and I feel good about that." I don't feel like that's too many more lines.

**How'd he get ahead?**

**Ferrell:** I just noticed. One day he was just coming up with all this great stuff, and I was down seven. So I just ended that. We wrapped at 11:30 a.m. that day.

NED EHRBAR/FOR METRO



Catch Kevin Hart and Will Ferrell in *Get Hard* when it hits theatres this Friday. CONTRIBUTED

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**REAL-LIFE GET HARD**

# Consultant shares jail myths

Lee Steven Chapelle had heard of *Get Hard*, a new flick about a white-collar criminal prepping for a prison sentence, but was surprised to learn it was a comedy.

In the movie, opening Friday, Will Ferrell plays a desperate millionaire who seeks expert advice on how to survive behind bars.

Chapelle is a real-life prison consultant, based in Ot-

tawa, who works with the soon-to-be incarcerated and their families to ensure their time in jail is as safe, productive and brief as possible.

He has spent roughly 21 years total in prison. He was first convicted at 16 and would eventually end up in a dizzying number of minimum, medium and even maximum-security facilities.

Now, Chapelle is an author and active advocate for in-

mates' rights. He says he only takes on clients he believes are sincere in their desire for rehabilitation.

"That's probably counter-productive to running a business," he says, "but that's my feeling."

Chapelle spoke with The Canadian Press about some of the most common misconceptions about life in prison and how to adapt.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



ISTOCK

## Picking fights

Collective wisdom seems to suggest that freshly incarcerated individuals should testify to their tenacity by attacking someone, anyone, right away. "If you're a person who's built to be able to do that, great," says a chuckling Chapelle. But such aggressiveness will only make it harder for inmates to campaign for parole later. Instead, he recommends that those new to prison mind their own business and find other ways to prove their "savvy and experience."

## Jail scares kids

Chapelle was a middle-class kid who stirred minor trouble as an adolescent before being convicted at 16 of a property crime. "My parents thought: 'OK, tough love, we're going to leave you in this detention centre,'" he says, recalling his two-month stint. "By the time I came out, I was completely anti-establishment. That triggered a hell of a long ride for me. When I went in, I was praying to God and saying I needed to change my life. When I left, 16 years old, I felt like the toughest thing in the world."

## Shower horror

Chapelle confirms that rape can be a chilling reality of prison, but he argues that it doesn't occur the way most people think. "I advise people not to accept favours because that's potentially the opening that leads down that road," he explains. "It's not so much a violent gang approaching you in the shower — that doesn't fly. It's more about ... 'You don't have anything, let me help you,' and the next thing you know you're being manipulated."

## Segregation behind bars

Recently on *The Good Wife*, Matt Czuchy's smooth lawyer Cary Agos prepared for jail time with a prison consultant, who advised him to find a Caucasian buddy on the inside. Chapelle says reality isn't so black and white. As a prisoner, he considered himself an honorary member of the Black Inmates & Friends Assembly and the Native Brotherhood. If anything, he says, religion divides. But even those lines eventually fade. "As time goes by, you realize, 'Hey, we're all being treated like (trash),' he says. "It kind of promotes unity."

### NOTICE OF HEARING FOR Permanent Guardianship Order To Steven Howerton

Take notice that on the **13th day of April 2015 at 10:30 a.m.**, at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1505, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta, a hearing for Permanent Guardianship Order will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for Permanent Guardianship Order of your child born on **July 19, 2014**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you **MUST** appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

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# Trailer Park Boys cleaning up act

## SERIES

**Season 9 will be released on Netflix this Friday**

**Aly Thomson**  
Metro

When Ricky of Sunnyvale Trailer Park gets out of jail on Friday, he's going to do something he's never done before: get a real job.

"I actually took some courses that are going to help me get a job. I took this course that helps you work with flowers so I might work at a flower store," said Ricky in a recent "interview from jail."

"I'm going to try and not do any crime and I just want to hang out with my grandson once he gets born."

Ricky (Robb Wells), Julian (John Paul Tremblay) and Bubbles (Mike Smith), who stayed in character for this interview, are back with Season 9 of the hugely successful Trailer Park Boys. The show will be released

Friday on Netflix.

Last season ended just as most others — with the infamous trailer park trio going back to jail.

But this time around, their stay on the inside appears to have had a positive impact.

Ricky and Julian are unusually optimistic about leading a crime-free life — a curious mindset for the career convicts, who usually commit just as many crimes in jail as outside.

Julian, who ended last season with shares of the park and a booming trailer-based bar and gym, says he plans to focus on his business.

"I spent a lot of time studying in here so when I get out I want to expand my business," said Julian, referring to Julian's Sports Bar and Gym.

"I think if I can expand the business, maybe open up some other ones around the Atlantic provinces, I think I'll be retired in three or four years."

But the boys are bound to fall into their old habits, especially with hints of trouble back in Sunnyvale.

"Things started out good, but then things changed a little bit and I'm just trying to deal with

it all," said Bubbles, who was released from jail months ago.

"I can't really talk about it right now because Julian is here and there's some things I don't particularly want him to know."

Sunnyvale's most hated alcoholic, Jim Lahey, was also taken away in a police cruiser last season after his plan to put the boys behind bars backfired when it was revealed that Lahey's ex-police partner George Green was working undercover.



**Things have been getting a little out of hand.**

Bubbles

"I was going to try and kill (Lahey) in jail, but they kept him away from me after that. It turned into a mess. I got stabbed with a screwdriver," said Ricky. "If Lahey doesn't mess with me, I'm going to try not to mess with him."

"But if he does mess with me, it's not going to be pretty."



Bubbles (Mike Smith) from Trailer Park Boys. The new season starts Friday. CONTRIBUTED

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## Last chance: American-free Cuba

### CARIBBEAN

### What you need to experience before the island changes

**Vawn Himmelsbach**  
Metro | Travel

Cuba is heating up. Flights, hotel rooms and even casas particulares, the Cuban version of B&Bs, are in demand. Scores of tourists from Canada are flocking to the country after U.S. President Obama announced plans to restore diplomatic ties with Cuba.

Once the border opens up to Americans, it's expected that prices will increase as demand exceeds supply.

Cuba's political and economic future is shifting, so if you want to get a

glimpse of a bygone era before it's gone — a 1950s freeze frame where iPads and Starbucks don't exist — then now is the time to pack your bags.

#### Old Havana

The capital city, where most travellers flock, is already fairly touristy — though it's a photographer's dream with its 1950s classic cars and crumbling art nouveau and colonial architecture.

If you want to get a sense of how Cubans really live, wander around Centro Havana. It's safe and easily walkable (Cuba is not known for violent crime), but the blazing heat may force you to stop for a coconut daiquiri or Cuba libre at one of Ernest Hemingway's former haunts — like El Floridita — to cool down.

#### Tour the coast

It's well worth venturing beyond Havana. Since you can't Google your way through this country (indeed, Gmail won't work here, even if you do find Wi-Fi), it means that hidden gems are still, in fact, hidden.

Since much of the country's environment has been protected, Cuba offers up pristine



Practise your Spanish and see some classic cars in the capital city, Havana. iStock

coastlines and wetlands. There's fear, however, that once borders open up and foreign developers move in, this could change. So now is the time to see a world relatively untouched by tourism — before it is.

Cuba has thousands of coral reefs that appear to be healthier than others in Caribbean waters thanks to decades of isolation from tourism, according to the

Nature Conservancy. So you can snorkel around reefs where you'll encounter everything from stingrays to green sea turtles — maybe even a reef shark — with no other boat in sight.

#### The Canarreos Archipelago

One way to do this is to sail Cuba's coastline. Canadian tour operator G Adventures, for example, recently launched a sailing trip that allows small groups of travellers to explore the islands of the Canarreos Archipelago, many of

which are uninhabited.

The archipelago is made up of more than 300 islands and islets, most of which are uninhabited.

Cayo Largo is the second-largest island, though it's only 26 kilometres long and three kilometres wide. Aside from stunning beaches, it's home to nesting sea turtles and flamingos.

Then there's Cayo Rico, which is only accessible by boat. There's a beach bar here, but that's it. You can hang out with the iguanas and explore secluded coves that make you feel like you're on a deserted island (though pina coladas are never too far away).

#### Meet the people

While sun-seekers have been heading to the island nation on discounted all-inclusive resort packages for years, the best way to see the "real" Cuba before it changes is to get off the resort.

The locals easily live up to their reputation as some of the friendliest, most hospitable people on the planet, and it's a great way to practice your Spanish.

If you do opt to sail the coast, dock overnight at the marina in Cayo Largo and join the Cubans for a late-night dance party to pulsating Latin beats under a sky full of stars. Don't know how to salsa or do the cha-cha-cha? No matter. You won't have any problem finding someone who will be happy to show you.

While you'll enjoy fresh seafood on the coast, it's also a first-hand experience of Cuban ingenuity. Step into a Cuban supermarket and you won't find much. There are no Pringles or Snickers bars. There are few fresh vegetables. So to see your Cuban cook whip up new — and tasty — dishes each day out of limited ingredients (such as tinned veggies) really hits home how Cubans actually live under a U.S. trade embargo.

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## Malibu, Calif. \$640 per night

This former home of **Denzel Washington**, singers **Captain and Tennille** and **Jimmy Page** sits on a bluff overlooking Broad Beach, one of the area's most famous surfing beaches. From the oversized outdoor patio, you can watch the dolphins play. If you're a partier, take note, Malibu City Hall has a strict 'no noise after 10 p.m.' ordinance, and they enforce it. The house comfortably sleeps eight. Pets welcome.



## Pacific Grove, Calif. \$1,422 per week

This historic studio has a unique and rich literary history, having belonged to **John Steinbeck** in the early '40s. He wrote *The Sea of Cortez* while living here. The 350-square-foot studio has its original '20s architecture, which means short doorways and a warning for tall guests to "mind their heads." Located a kilometre from the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Cannery Row.



## Omaha, Neb. Free?

You can win your chance to stay in the childhood home of **Warren Buffett**, one of the world's richest men, by entering an Air BnB on-line contest. See where the trail-blazing entrepreneur launched his first business selling chewing gum door-to-door at age six. The hook: You need to be a Berkshire Hathaway shareholder to enter. The rich keep getting richer for a reason!



## Stone Ridge, N.Y. \$2,586 per week

Located by the Mohonk Preserve, the Rubber House was built for the famed choreographer **Eugene Loring**. It was then owned by actor **Willem Dafoe** who faithfully retained the original dance studio and industrial kitchen. Situated on seven acres, the house is nestled within a grouping of giant moss-covered prehistoric boulders. The listing suggests you'll need a car, bike or perhaps a horse to get around.

# Beyond Santa Monica's famous old pier

## DESTINATION

## Classics and more to see in this paradise on L.A.'s edge

Planning a trip to Southern California but don't want to fight L.A. traffic? Check out the Santa Monica in all its picture-postcard beauty. From a funky old pier surrounded by some of the world's best beaches to its upscale shopping district, scores of art galleries, top-rated restaurants and bountiful nightlife, there are enough things in this

little oasis just 19 kilometres west of downtown Los Angeles to keep you not only occupied but enthralled.

### What's new

Santa Monica Place: Transformed in 2010, this shopping mall is a bright, open-air gathering spot of upscale restaurants and stores that connects directly with the city's pedestrian-friendly Third Street Promenade, forming the heart of Santa Monica's downtown.

### Classic attractions

Start by making a beeline to Santa Monica Pier, the 99-year-old landmark with an entrance

## + IF YOU GO

### Getting around

Basic one-way fares on the city's Big Blue Bus system are \$1, with multiple-ride passes available at discounted prices. Visit [bigbluebus.com](http://bigbluebus.com) for details.

sign proclaiming it as the final stop on Route 66, the historic highway John Steinbeck declared America's Mother Road. Here you'll find everything from musicians, snake handlers, artists and other street performers, to quiet

areas set aside for fishing. In the middle of it all is an amusement park with a solar-powered Ferris wheel that carries riders 40 metres up.

### Hanging out

On the way into town check out Bergamot Station Art Center. A collection of modest buildings near a maintenance yard in the section of town farthest from the beach, it's easy to overlook. But inside this 19th-century rail yard you'll find a small art museum and more than a dozen contemporary galleries displaying photos, sculptures, paintings and more.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The beach in Santa Monica. JAE C. HONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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All travellers, foreign and Cubans living abroad, must have a medical insurance policy when travelling to Cuba. Prices reflect applicable reductions, are subject to change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offer or promotion. Prices are in Canadian dollars, are valid for bookings made on March 27, 2015, apply to new bookings only and for departure dates as indicated. Prices are per person based on double occupancy, unless otherwise stated, from Calgary International Airport in Economy class and include surcharges. Non-refundable. Subject to availability at time of booking. Not applicable to group bookings. Further information available from a travel agent. Flights operated by Air Canada Rouge. For applicable terms and conditions, consult the Air Canada Vacations brochures or [www.aircanadavacations.com](http://www.aircanadavacations.com). \*Select packages only for travel in March to October 2015. \*Available in conjunction with flight-inclusive packages. Non-stop flights via Calgary. Excluding USA & Europe destinations. ■ Air Canada Vacations is a registered trademark of Air Canada, used under license by Touram Limited Partnership, 1440 St. Catherine W., Suite 600, Montreal, QC. Visit [www.aircanadavacations.com](http://www.aircanadavacations.com) for up-to-date information.



# TRAVEL NOTES FROM A SAFARI DEAL TO NICARAGUA



## African Safari sale

Intrepid Travel is offering 30 per cent off African safari adventures departing before June 30 if you book your trip by April 30. And it's not just two or three; there are more than 20 trips on sale, from seven days to 60: Kilimanjaro and the Serengeti, Victoria Falls and Ngorongoro Crater, Lake Nakuru and the Okavango Delta. Visit [IntrepidTravel.com](http://IntrepidTravel.com).



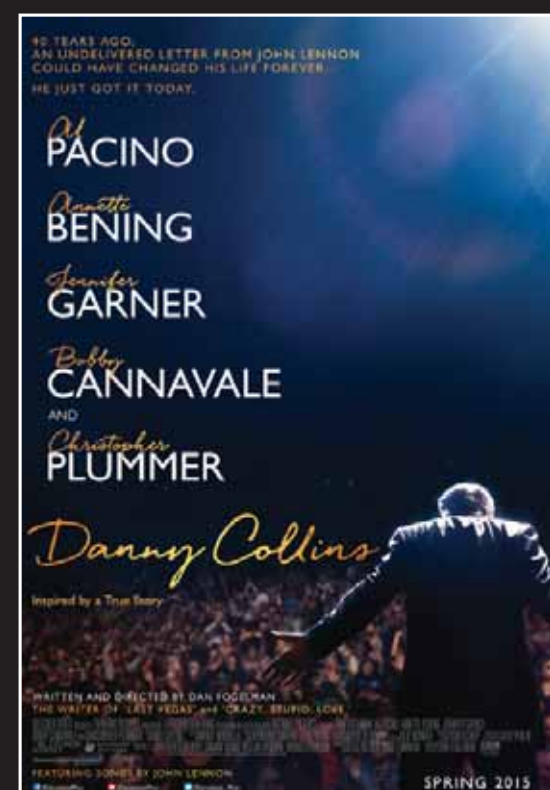
## Nicaragua

"The Land of Lakes and Volcanoes" is gaining ground on Costa Rica and Panama as the new place to explore, and not just with the younger set looking for a cheap place to surf. Travellers wanting something different than the usual sunspots will revel in the authenticity of Nicaragua. And since the turbulence of the 1970s and '80s, Nicaragua is now one of the safest countries in the region. May to October is the best time to go. Check out [VisitNicaragua.us](http://VisitNicaragua.us).



## Scrubba Wash Bag

This looks like a dry bag, but it's actually a portable washing gizmo. Just add water, soap and your clothes, roll down the top a few times and clip the ends, expel the air inside, then scrub clothes clean in three minutes with the help of an internal, flexible washboard. \$59 at [mec.ca](http://mec.ca). DOUG WALLACE



You could **WIN** an advance screening pass for two to see *Danny Collins* April 1<sup>ST</sup>!

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# HEALTH & WELLNESS

## Ease into exercising

*Support your regime with sleep and water intake*

Summer is just around the corner, and it's the perfect time to spring back into a healthy lifestyle — beyond just a fitness routine.

One of the biggest things to remember when transitioning from winter to summer is to take it slow, especially if you've been sitting idle more often over the holidays, according to Calgary Fit Body Boot Camp co-owner and fitness trainer Jimmy Hartley, who runs two boot camps in Calgary.

"It's easy to remember how fit we used to be. But it takes years to gain weight and body fat, so people have to remember to be patient when getting back into shape because results don't happen overnight," he says.

Hartley says it's important to treat your fitness and health routine like brushing your teeth or getting ready for work —

something that becomes a habit the more you do it.

"The ultimate goal is to exercise, eat right and stay healthy, so you should make it a habit. Sometimes I say to treat it like a job: In the morning, you might not want to go to work, but you get up and do it anyways because you have to."

There are also two very simple but often overlooked ways to make sure you're at the top of your game any time of year: Drink water and get enough sleep. Hartley says the general rule should be to drink 0.6 ounces of water per pound of weight. He points to a recent University of Calgary study that found 75 per cent of Canadians are chronically dehydrated.

"Water is one of the most basic things you can do when trying to stay healthy and keep in shape but it's one that people forget the most," Hartley adds.



SHUTTERSTOCK

### ACCOUNTABILITY IS KEY

Getting into spring shape can be a daunting task, but owner and head trainer Amy Boyer of Evolve Fitness Fix in Calgary has some simple tips for getting started: "The greatest key to staying committed to a healthy and fit lifestyle isn't your

gym membership or the number of reps you complete; it's accountability," Boyer says. Ways to keep yourself accountable include setting clear goals, sticking to a workout schedule, exercising with others and keeping a positive attitude. "There are a variety of ways to get motivated and stay committed."

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## Latest fat-reduction technology

### *Hair Restoration Services helps you look your best*

Hair Restoration Services has recently added the latest technology for fat reduction: "Our body sculpting service — known as body FX — helps people look and feel their best," says HRS owner Arlene Forster.

Your hair is also a major part of who you are and how you carry yourself, so it's important to feel good about it.

There are treatments that can help alleviate or rectify hair loss for both men and women, according to Forster. These include hair replacement, a non-surgical and natural-looking way to have a full head of hair within hours.

"Even though 80 per cent of our clients

are men, we have women who suffer from hair loss, too," she says. HRS offers the newest technology for hair growth: Laser Caps. "It's simple and fast," says Forster.

In fact, HRS of Calgary specializes in a variety of hair and body-restoration services, including hair replacement, laser-light therapy, women's Wonderfil and Hot Heads hair extensions. It also offers skin tightening, fractional skin treatment and non-invasive body contouring.

HRS of Calgary Inc. is an 11-time recipient of the Consumer Choice Award, from 2005 to 2014, and has a reputation for results.





SHUTTERSTOCK

# CONFIDENCE STARTS WITH SKIN

## ECZEMA AND OTHER CONDITIONS TREATED

While many people perceive eczema as just seasonal dry skin, it can be much more complex for those who suffer from a severe form of the condition.

Eczema can develop into dry, red, inflamed skin that is extremely itchy and painful, according to Dr. Tom Woo from

the Laser Rejuvenation Clinic and Spa. He says up to 17 per cent of Canadians suffer from the condition. "But," he adds, "there are ways to remedy the condition to make the person feel better both physically and mentally."

The Calgary Laser Rejuvenation Clinic offers a variety of treatments, including Alitretinoin — a form of vitamin A — and many options can be tailored to each patient's specific needs.

"Once they come here for treatment,

they emerge renewed and transformed, with the confidence to have their skin seen and touched while highlighting their natural beauty," says Woo.

Another popular treatment at the clinic helps people who suffer from hyperhidrosis, better known as excessive sweating of the hands or underarms. The treatments include underarm Botox injections, which can change the life of patients who don't want to suffer from the embarrassing condition.

## CBC Foot Products has a pain and discomfort solution

*Free foot baths are being offered to find cause of the problem*

If you suffer pain in your feet, knee, hip or back, the answer might be orthotics.

Many people don't realize that those

nagging aches and pains in other areas of their body can be attributed to an imbalance in their feet, according to CBC Foot Products founder Lance Colins, who has been in the foot-care business for over 30 years.

"Living with aches and pain in your body can really interfere with your everyday life and lifestyle, and that's why we're here to let people know there could be a

simple solution that doesn't include the use of drugs or surgery," Colins says.

To help people find the root cause of their pain, CBC Foot Products is currently offering a free foot bath and assessment by appointment. "It's simple and only takes about 15 minutes," says Colins. "It helps us determine if their pain could be attributed to their feet — and if so, orthotics can help." Seniors over 65, he adds, may qualify for free orthotics, with some conditions. "We also offer a lifetime warranty on products and services with the purchase of orthotics."

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## Flames embark on critical road trip

NHL

### 5-game stretch away from Saddledome begins vs. Wild

Battling for their playoff lives, the Calgary Flames begin a stretch of five straight road games on Friday when they face the Minnesota Wild.

The Flames, who completed their recent five-game home-stand with a 2-1-2 record, will also face the Nashville Predators, Dallas Stars, St. Louis Blues and Edmonton Oilers during their final extended road trip of the regular season.

"It seems that we always find a way to elevate our games in situations that we need to and right now we're all in," said Calgary coach Bob Hartley. "The chips are all on the table right now. There's no bluffs. We have to come up with our best performances and it's fun."

Calgary

### + SIGNING

#### Flames ink Carroll to deal

Austin Carroll of the Western Hockey League's Victoria Royals was signed by the Calgary Flames on Thursday.

Carroll, 20, was drafted by the Flames in the seventh

round (184th overall) in the 2014 NHL Entry Draft.

The six-foot-four, 224-pound winger led Victoria with 38 goals, 77 points, 124 penalty minutes and a plus-23 rating over 69 games.

(40-27-7) erased deficits of 2-0 and 3-2 to Dallas on Wednesday at the Saddledome before eventually losing 4-3 to the Stars in a shootout.

"We got some big points," said Flames defenceman Kris Russell. "Obviously we would have liked to have added a few, especially (on Wednesday), but we know that going into a road trip we're

some momentum, so we've got to make sure that we really go after some teams on the road and play strong."

The Flames still gained a point on Wednesday to retain their grip on third place in the Pacific Division, just one point ahead of the Kings (36-23-14) before Los Angeles faced the New York Islanders on the road on Thursday night.

"You can have brain damage worrying about all the different gyrations of who beats who and looking out of town," said Calgary general manager Brad Treliving, who wants the Flames to concentrate on playing one game at a time starting with Friday's tough test against the Wild. "We can't get too far ahead of ourselves. This isn't a five-game road trip, it's one game five times, and that's the way we have to look at it right

now." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Kings centre Nick Shore scores against Islanders defence-  
man Johnny Boychuk and goalie Jaroslav Halak on Thursday  
in Uniondale, N.Y. KATHY KMONICEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

## Kings move ahead of Flames in Pacific

Anze Kopitar scored with 4:23 left, defenceman Alec Martinez had two assists, and the Los Angeles Kings won their third straight on their road trip by beating the slumping New York Islanders 3-2 on Thursday night.

Kopitar, who had a goal and five assists in his previous three games, got to a deflected puck off a drive by defenceman Andrej Sekera and fired it past Jaroslav Halak for his 16th goal.

Jonathan Quick made 25 saves in his 400th NHL game. He has won at New Jersey, the New York Rangers, and the Islanders on this trip that has two games left. Nick Shore netted his first career goal in his 28th game, and Tyler Tofoli also scored for the playoff-hopeful Kings.

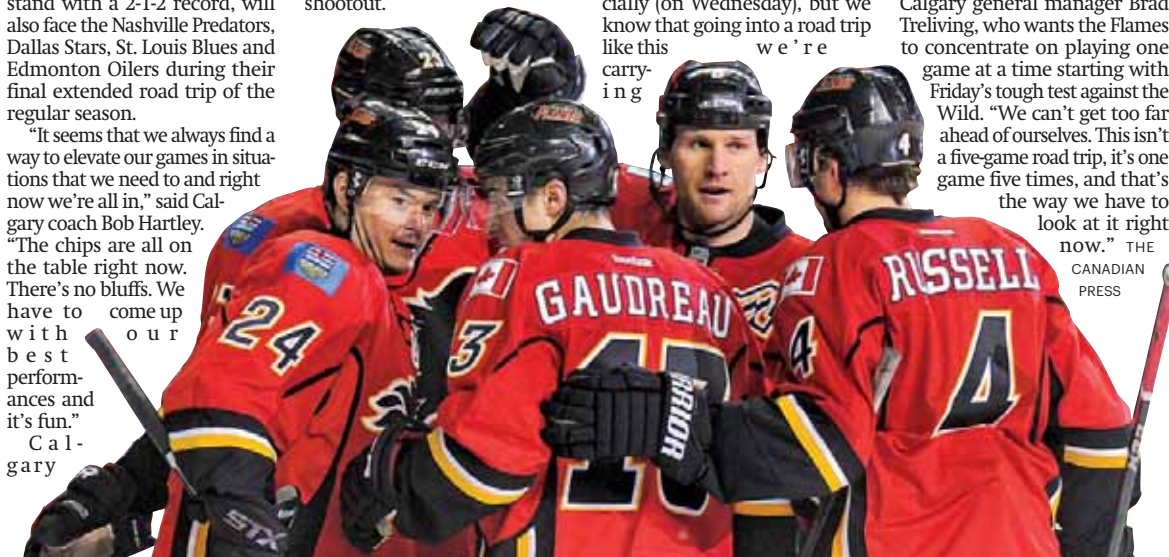
With the win, the Kings leapfrogged the Calgary Flames for third place in the Pacific Division.

### + MORE SCORES

**Rangers hand Hamburglar his 1st regulation-time loss**  
Ottawa netminder Andrew Hammond suffered his first regulation-time loss on Thursday as the Senators fell to the New York Rangers 5-1. Hammond is now 14-1-1 to start his NHL career. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Getzlaf's OT goal pushes Ducks past Bruins**  
Ryan Getzlaf scored 3:09 into overtime to lift the Anaheim Ducks to a 3-2 victory over the Boston Bruins. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Frans Nielsen and Johnny Boychuk had goals, and Halak stopped 34 shots, but the Islanders fell to 2-5-2 in their past nine. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The Flames held on to third place in the Pacific Division before Thursday evening. DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

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Notre Dame's Zach Auguste slams home two points against Wichita State on Thursday in Cleveland.

ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES

#### NCAA BASKETBALL

## Irish jolt Shockers, advance to Elite 8

Notre Dame's march through March is picking up speed.

Demetrius Jackson scored 20 points and the third-seeded Irish dominated Wichita State 81-70 in the Midwest regional semifinals on Thursday night to advance to the Elite Eight for the first time in 36 years.

The Irish (32-5) shot 75 per cent (18 of 24) in the second half, easily pulling away from the seventh-seeded Shockers (30-5).

Notre Dame will play either unbeaten Kentucky or West Virginia on Saturday night with a Final Four spot on the line.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Simmons' team playing to win him a world title

#### CURLING

## Morris, Rycroft and Thiessen want success for their skip

John Morris, Carter Rycroft and Nolan Thiessen are all former world men's curling champions.

They're hoping to get their skip his first world title at this year's tournament in Halifax.

Pat Simmons will guide the host Canadian side at the competition, which begins Saturday at the Scotiabank Centre. He took over skipping duties from Morris after the team struggled in the early going at the recent Tim Hortons Brier.

Simmons went on to lead the Calgary rink to the playoffs and a successful title defence as the first Team Canada entry at the national championship. A 6-5 victory over Northern Ontario's Brad Jacobs gave them a berth in the 12-team world championship along with a

chance to make up for a disappointing fourth-place finish last year in Beijing.

"That's one of our big motivators going into Halifax," said Morris. "We want to get that world championship for Pat."

Simmons, Rycroft and Thiessen won the Brier last year with Alberta skip Kevin Koe. However, reports surfaced shortly before the 2014 world championship that Koe planned to move forward with a new lineup for this season.

They still made it to the bronze-medal game but settled for fourth place after a loss to Switzerland. It was the first time since 2001 that Canada had missed the podium at the world playdowns.

Koe's former teammates later recruited Morris as skip and had an automatic entry at the Brier as the defending champions. Team Canada played a light schedule ahead of the national playdowns and stumbled to a 2-3 record after five games.

That's when Morris demoted himself to third and handed skipping duties to Simmons, who shone in the role. They made the final four, pulled off two close playoff wins and knocked off the reigning Olympic champions in a nailbiting final. Not bad for someone who hadn't been a full-time skip in five years.

"As it turned out, it came back relatively quick," Simmons said in a recent interview.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Team Canada skip Pat Simmons is hoisted up by third John Morris while celebrating winning the Brier final. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**"I definitely was pleased with how quickly everything did come back, for sure."**

Pat Simmons

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# Golden pair picture-perfect

## FIGURE SKATING

### Duhamel, Radford undefeated since Sochi

Canadians Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford have their perfect season.

Duhamel and Radford held off two Chinese teams in the free skate to capture gold in the pairs event on Thursday at the world figure skating championships in Shanghai.

After a seventh-place finish at the Sochi Games last year, Duhamel, from Lively, Ont., and Radford, from Balmerston, Ont., decided to continue their careers and skate another year — and haven't lost since.

They won all six international events they entered this season, including the Grand Prix Finals and Four Continents.

"Some dreams are so big that you can't even imagine them happening and it's all happening right now," said Radford.

"I could never have imagined it and I can't tell if it's a dream or reality."

Duhamel and Radford, who won bronze at the previous two world championships, were the leaders after the short program. It is Canada's first pairs title since Jamie Sale and David Pelletier won in 2001.

"This is a very personal vic-

tory. Every single victory along the way this season had a very special meaning," Duhamel said.

Sui Wenjing and Han

Cong of China finished second, and 35-year-old veterans Pang Qing and Tong Jian, competing in their 16th world championships, took home the bronze.

Pang and Tong, who came out of retirement this year to finish their careers in Shanghai, now have six world

medals (two gold, one silver, three bronze) to go with their silver medal from the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

"I fulfilled (my partner's) wishes to come back to the rink," Tong said, before adding with a smile, "I certainly hope Pang Qing will not drag me back to the rink once again."

Also, Russian Elizaveta Tuk-

tamysheva landed a triple Axel on her first leap of the figure skating world championships on Thursday, opening up a big lead over the rest of the field after the short program.

"When I landed the triple Axel, I got goosebumps and I thought, 'Is this a dream or did I really just do the triple Axel at the world championships?'" said Tuktamysheva, 18.

Only a handful of women skaters have successfully landed a triple Axel in international competition, among them Tonya Harding, Midori Ito and Mao Asada. Tuktamysheva landed the difficult jump in one of the biggest competitions of her career after only practising it for a couple months.

THE CANADIAN PRESS WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford of Canada skate their way to the gold medal during the pairs free skate at the world figure skating championships in Shanghai on Thursday. JOHANNES EISELE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

“

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Eric Radford

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# RECIPE Chicken with Red Curry

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### Ready in

Prep time: 10 minutes

Bake time: 11 minutes

### Directions

**1.** Dust chicken with 3 tbsp of flour. In large skillet sprayed with vegetable oil, sauté chicken for 3 minutes or just until no longer pink. Set aside.

**2.** In the same skillet, add oil and sauté onions, curry paste, ginger and garlic for 3 minutes, then add red bell pepper and sauté for 2 minutes. Set aside.

**3.** In a bowl, combine coconut milk, 2 tbsp flour, fish sauce and sugar and mix until flour has dissolved. Add to onion mixture along with chicken, and on a medium heat, cook just until sauce has slightly thickened, about 3 minutes.

**4.** Serve over cooked rice or noodles (if using) and garnish with chopped cashews and cilantro.

### Ingredients

• 12 oz boneless, skinless chicken breast, sliced into 1/2-inch wide slices



- 5 tbsp all-purpose flour, divided
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 cups sliced onions
- 2 tbsp red curry paste or to taste
- 1 tbsp minced ginger
- 1 1/2 tsp minced garlic
- 2 cups sliced red bell peppers
- 1 1/2 cups canned light coconut milk
- 1 tbsp fish sauce
- 1 tsp brown sugar
- Garnish**
- 1/4 cup toasted chopped cashews
- 3 tbsp chopped cilantro
- 3 cups cooked rice or rice noodles (optional)

### Nutrition per serving

- Calories 352
- Protein 38.4 g
- Carbohydrates 18.8 g
- Fibre 3.1 g
- Total fat 13 g
- Saturated fat 4.9 g
- Cholesterol 250 mg
- Sodium 450 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

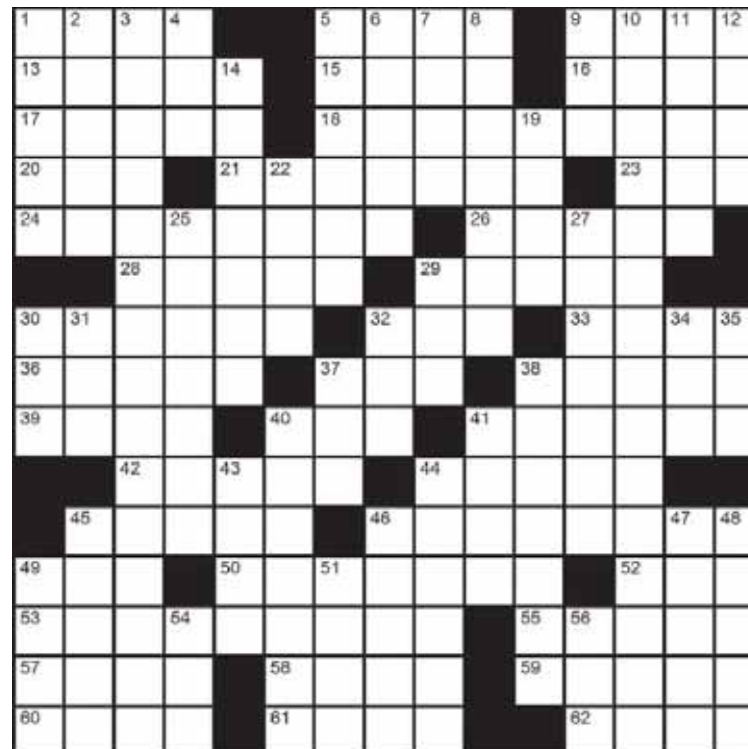
# CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

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## ACROSS

- Canada's historic exports
- British group, with Manfred
- Island: Spanish
- Clark's legendary 1939 movie role
- Mr. Blacc of song
- Irving and Grant
- Place to connect in Chicago
- Circus performer's prop: 2 wds.
- South, in Portugal
- Suspiciously
- Tree of Hawaii
- Michel \_\_, Montreal Canadiens head coach
- Movie mermaid
- Chimney-like
- Stew
- "Dis-Moi, Dis-Moi" chanteuse
- It gets pumped
- Music key, \_\_
- Purport
- Wickedness
- Celebrity chef Guy
- Apportion
40. Wear
- Magician
- TV actor Rob
- Actress Ms. Brewster
- He's a helluva guy
- Hamilton's AHL team
- Travel-



- ler's delay
- Canadian singer Ms. Reno
- Horizontal rest
- Those supervising
- Big carrier of blood
- "Game of Thrones" actress Ms. Headey

- Kind of mackerel
- Deep \_\_ (Resturant appliance)
- Bohemian
- Zest
- Sleep Country Canada products

## DOWN

- Decorate the cake
- "Yup."
- Royal LePage worker: 3 wds.
- Water channel, e.g.
- Detective Vic \_\_ (Michael Chiklis' role on "The Shield")

- "Robin Hood" (2010) minstrel, \_\_ A'Dayle
- Midday
- "The Price Is Right" prizes: 2 wds.
- Mr. Somerhalder
- Classic order at Montreal's since-1927 famous eatery

- Dunn's: 4 wds.
- Disinfectant brand
- Between ports
- Rita's \_\_ (Cape Breton's 'steeped'-in-tradition establishment opened by Rita MacNeil in the 1980s)
- Emperor of Rome
- In \_\_ (As originally placed)
- Most pink
- Sort of salt
- Prohibit
- Ancient 1900
- Tact' suffix
- Saloon supply
- Flawed in a way [abbr.]
- Nest: French
- Maritime message
- Ancient statue's modesty preserver: 2 wds.
- "Let's Hear It for the Boy": 1984 hit for \_\_ Williams
- Mr. Disney
- Labels
- Feigns: 2 wds.
- Rescuer
- Yogi of famous quotes
- \_\_ community (Exclusive residences locale)
- Boxes
- 1970 Kinks tune
- Portraitist, Alice \_\_ (b.1900 - d.1984)
- Mr. Romano
- Ball

# IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

**Aries** March 21 - April 20  
If something feels good then just do it. As long as it is moral, it does not matter what others might think about it. You have never been one to let criticism stop you.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21  
Forget about financial matters and focus on your family. Get things in perspective today and remind yourself that, in the greater scheme of things, money is only bits of paper.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21  
Make sure you are on the move because the more people you meet, the more opportunities will come your way in the near future. There is also a chance you could meet someone new to love.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23  
Don't let those who say you are behaving in an illogical manner persuade you to change your ways. What you are doing may look silly to them but from your point of view it makes sense.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23  
Don't take on extra tasks over the next 24 hours. With the commitments you already have you are likely to be on the go from first thing in the morning to last thing at night.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23  
If you admit you need help today you will be overwhelmed by offers of assistance. But don't take the easy way out and let friends and colleagues do everything for you.

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23  
A new relationship will start today or over the weekend. It may or may not be romantic in nature but whatever guise it takes it will be fun. This is also a good time to interact with large groups of people.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22  
You will go out of your way to be nice to people today — even with those who have not always been nice to you in the past.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21  
Your generosity knows no bounds: you want to do everything for everyone. Common sense should tell you that isn't actually possible but you will do your best to make a positive difference in the next 24 hours.

**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20  
The intensity of your emotions could catch you by surprise today, so stay in control and don't over-react. If you do go too far you may be a bit embarrassed later when you realize what was said and done.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19  
This is a good day to patch up disputes with loved ones. You will find it easier than usual to admit that you were to blame for what went wrong.

**Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20  
You will find it difficult to make up your mind about something but that's OK. The planets indicate it will pay to put off a decision about a money matter until early next week.

## CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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